

DIRECTOR, FBI

February 28, 1950

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MATTHEW SVETIC
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Transmitted herewith are two copies of transcripts of testimony
of the above individual before the House Committee on Un-American
Activities on February 21, 22, 23, 1950.

Enclosures

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HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTY-FIRST CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

Date February 21, 1950

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I N D E X

PUBLIC HEARING

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Tuesday, February 21, 1950

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Washington, D. C.

PUBLIC HEARING

Morning Session

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:30 a.m.
in room 226, Old House Office Building, Washington, D. C.,
Hon. John McSweeney presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives John McSweeney,
Morgan M. Moulder, Richard M. Nixon (arriving as indicated),
Francis Case (arriving as indicated), and Bernard W. Kearney.

Staff members present: Frank S. Tavenner, Jr., counsel;
Louis J. Russell, senior investigator; Donald T. Appell,
William A. Wheeler, and Courtney Owens, investigators; John
W. Carrington, clerk; Benjamin Mandel, director of research;
and A. S. Poore, editor.

Mr. McSWEENEY. The subcommittee is in session. I would
like the record to show that Mr. Moulder, Mr. Kearney, and
Mr. McSweeney are present.

You may proceed, Mr. Tavenner.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, will you be sworn, please.

Mr. McSWEENEY. You solemnly swear the testimony you
give before the committee will be the truth, the whole truth,

and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. CVETIC. I do.

TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW CVETIC

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, what is your full name, please?

Mr. CVETIC. Matthew Cvetic.

Mr. TAVENNER. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we complete the photographing phase of the hearing so that we will not interrupt the witness.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Gentlemen of the press, we want you to have every opportunity to take pictures, but we don't want you to interfere with our progress here.

Mr. TAVENNER. One photographer has suggested he would like a photograph taken while the witness is talking.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Very well.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, when and where were you born?

Mr. CVETIC. I was born in Pittsburgh, March 4, 1909.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long have you lived in Pittsburgh?

Mr. CVETIC. All my life.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, will you please briefly outline to the committee your educational background?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I completed elementary school at St. Mary's parochial school on 57th Street in Pittsburgh. I finished two years at St. Vincent's College Preparatory School at Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Curry Business College in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you briefly outline to the committee your employment background?

Mr. CVETIC. In 1925 or 1926 I went to work for I. W. Scott Company in Pittsburgh. I worked there about three and a half years, and then went to work for the Etna Furniture Company. When I left there I worked for General Motors about a year. After that I operated a service station for my father and myself until about 1935.

In 1935 I went to work for the Department of Justice on a crime survey; and in December 1937 I went to work for the United States Employment Service, as a placement interviewer, and worked there until December 1945.

Mr. TAVENNER. In what city did you work for the United States Employment Service?

Mr. CVETIC. In Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. And you worked there how long?

Mr. CVETIC. About eight years.

In December 1945 I went to work for the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief as the executive secretary in Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long did you work for them?

Mr. CVETIC. About two years.

Mr. TAVENNER. And when did you cease working for them?

Mr. CVETIC. In December 1947, when I was made executive secretary of the American Slav Congress in Western Pennsylvania.

Then in November 1948 I went to work as an insurance salesman for E. J. Waldman Insurance Agency in Pittsburgh, and at the present time I am still an insurance salesman for E. J. Waldman Insurance Agency in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is your nationality background?

Mr. CVETIC. Slovenian, born in Pittsburgh. My mother and dad came from Slovenia, which is in Yugoslavia.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. I have been a member of the Communist Party since February 1943.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you briefly outline to the committee how you became a member of the Communist Party? In this connection, Mr. Cvetic, the committee would appreciate that you, for consistency, refer to your Communist membership as Communist Party membership. We realize that the Communist Party changed its name to the Communist Political Association from May 1944 until its convention in July 1945, when it again became the Communist Party.

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I can do that. In April 1941, while I was employed at the United States Employment Service, I was approached by a Government agency and asked to volunteer my services to do undercover work. I met with their agent two or three times, and as a result of these meetings I agreed to take steps which would put me in a position to join the Communist

Party for the purpose of furnishing the FBI with reports on Communist Party activities. That was in April of 1941.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is, Communist Party activities within the Pittsburgh area, Western Pennsylvania?

Mr. CVETIC. No; in the United States.

Mr. TAVENNER. That means you expected to get what information you could from the country at large, and you were not restricted merely to the Pittsburgh area?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. After agreeing to engage in undercover work, what did you do?

Mr. CVETIC. My first step, which was taken in accordance with instructions, was to make friends with known or suspected Communists in the United States Employment Service. I became a Communist sympathizer. In other words, I parroted the Communist Party line, and whenever the Soviet Union was brought up I sided with the Soviet Union in arguments and debates, and, if I was invited, I attended Communist Party meetings open to known sympathizers and friends.

As a result of this, I became friends with three or four Communist Party members in the United States Employment Service. If you wish me to, I will be glad to mention their names.

Mr. TAVENNER. How did you know these persons were Communist Party members?

Mr. CVETIC. I had no immediate knowledge that they were

Communist Party members, but after joining the Communist Party I attended District Committee meetings, functionary meetings, and branch meetings with these people.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who were the people you associated yourself with in the United States Employment Service who you later learned were members of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. One of these was Sidney Horwitz.

Mr. KEARNEY. What is that name?

Mr. CVETIC. Sidney Horwitz, H-o-r-w-i-t-z.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who was Sidney Horwitz?

Mr. CVETIC. At that time he was a senior interviewer in the United States Employment Service. Another person whom I later found to be a Communist Party member working in the United States Employment Service was Dorothy Sloan. She also used the name Slome, S-l-o-m-e. Another was Pauline Roth. She is now married. Her name is Pauline Jacobs.

Mr. TAVENNER. In 1941 you began associating with these people who were the principal ones who drew you into the Communist Party; is that correct?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. As a result of my contacts with Sidney Horwitz, I met another Communist Party member by the name of Andy Novak, who was instrumental in getting me into the Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Tell us in what way he was instrumental in getting you into the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Andy Novak had difficulty getting work because

he was a known Communist at the time, and he was sent to me at the United States Employment Service by Sidney Horwitz for the purpose of putting him to work, which I did. After that I became very friendly with Andy Novak. It seemed he was always losing his job, and I put him in four or five jobs in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who actually recruited you in the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, who is now a member of the National Board of the Communist Party, and Andy Novak signed my application.

Mr. TAVENNER. You say she is now a member of the National Board of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. She is, yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. During what time in 1943 did you become a member? I believe you said in February?

Mr. CVETIC. It was in February, either on Washington's or Lincoln's birthday. It was on one of the holidays.

Mr. TAVENNER. How did that occur?

Mr. CVETIC. They had a meeting at the Fifth Avenue High School in Pittsburgh, and I was invited by Sidney Horwitz and Andy Novak to attend this meeting. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn came down to speak, and as a result of listening to her at this meeting I became converted and joined the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was the purpose of holding this meeting?

Mr. CVETIC. The main purpose of the meeting was to recruit Communist Party members, and I was one of the two I remember being recruited by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn at this meeting.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have described the method by which you got into the Communist Party. Did you then continue to work in an undercover capacity in the Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. From that time on I worked in an undercover capacity, up until the present time.

Mr. TAVENNER. To what group or cell were you assigned when you first were taken into the Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Because I worked in a professional occupation, I was assigned to the Professional Branch in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who were other members of that cell?

Mr. CVETIC. At the time I joined, Steve Dedijer and Dolly Gainer were two of the members. Later Lee Kogan became the Professional Branch organizer there. Another member was Jack Strobel, the organizer in Pittsburgh for the United Office and Professional Workers of America.

M. Y. Steinberg, attorney, in Pittsburgh, was a member; Paul Morrison, chemist with the Hogan Chemical Corporation of Pittsburgh, was a member; Martin Krasich, an officer of the Croatian Fraternal Union, was a member; Jack Shore, a student at Carnegie Tech, was a member, as was his wife Barbara Shore; Abe Franks and his wife Nancy Franks were members; and Ann Lipkind was a member.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who is Steve Dedijs?

Mr. CVETIC. At that time he was working for Slobodna Rec, which is the Serbian Communist newspaper in Pittsburgh. He was replaced by Mirko Markovich. Dedijs is now with the Yugoslav staff of United Nations.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you know Mirko Markovich as a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I met with Mirko Markovich many times as a member of the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who was Lee Kogan?

Mr. CVETIC. He was the Professional Branch organizer in Pittsburgh and also an organizer for the United Electrical Workers in Pittsburgh. He has since left Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. You state he was an organizer for the UE?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who was Dolly Gainor, referred to by you as one of the members of the Professional Branch?

Mr. CVETIC. Dolly Gainor at that time was a member of the City Committee of the Communist Party in Pittsburgh. She is now living in Washington County, Pennsylvania, and is married to Pete Karpa. Pete Karpa was secretary of the City Committee when I joined the Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did this Professional Branch go by a particular designation or name?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. It was known as the Tom Paine Professional Branch.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you first assume a position in that branch or in that cell?

Mr. CVETIC. The first position I assumed was as a member of the Executive Committee of the Tom Paine Branch sometime in the fall of 1943.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you briefly outline to the committee the offices that you have held in that branch and other branches of the Communist Party up to the present time?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I will. First, as I mentioned, I was assigned to the Tom Paine Professional Branch and was a member of the Executive Committee there. Later I was transferred to the North Side Club and was a member of the Executive Committee in this club.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was the North Side Club another cell of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, it was another cell of the Communist Party. Then I was transferred from the North Side Club to the East End Club of the Communist Party, and I was a member of the Executive Committee there.

From the East End Club I was transferred to the Lawrenceville Club, and there I was the branch organizer.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was the purpose of transferring you from one cell to another?

Mr. CVETIC. These transfers usually came as a result of Communist Party organizational changes which were ordered by the District Board of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania. In other words, you could not change yourself. There were organizational changes, regroupings, and so on.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who authorized the changes?

Mr. CVETIC. The District Board of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania.

My next position after that came in 1944 when I met with Pete Karpa, Dolly Gainor and Max Weiss, who was then the district organizer for the Communist Party. They told me because of my nationality background, I was to be assigned to become active in language work. My first assignment was in the American Slav Congress.

Mr. TAVENNER. What languages do you speak?

Mr. CVETIC. Slovene, Serbian and Croation I speak most fluently.

Mr. TAVENNER. When they started to assign you to organizational work, describe in detail what type of work they assigned you to.

Mr. CVETIC. At the time they assigned me to this work I was still a member of the Professional Branch and still had to attend branch meetings, as a Communist must, regardless of how long he is in the Party. These assignments were given to me for the purpose of carrying the Party line from the branch

into the American Slav Congress.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you, as a result of that assignment, gain an official position in the American Slav Congress in Pittsburgh?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I became a member of the Executive Board of the American Slav Congress in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you get your first office in the American Slav Congress?

Mr. CVETIC. After the 1944 convention of the American Slav Congress. I was officially elected at this 1944 convention in Pittsburgh as a member of the National Committee of the American Slav Congress. Later on I will report at length on how we engineered the conventions.

To complete my Communist Party connections, I was a member of the District Committee of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania.

I was a member of the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party, USA, which body functions on the national level.

Then there is also a Nationality Commission that functions on a local level, and I was a member of that Commission in Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. TAVENNER. So you were a member of both the national and local Nationality Commission of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right. This is a group of Communist Party members who plan and carry out Communist Party strategy and line into the nationality organizations in their community.

These Commissions are also broken down into various language groups. For example, there is a Croatian Commission; there is a Slovene Commission; Slovak Commission; Polish Commission; Russian Commission; Ukrainian Commission; Italian Commission; Greek Commission; Jewish Commission; and Servian Commission. These are Communist Party Commissions, all of these.

Mr. TAVENNER. These are Commissions within the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. Which function on a national level?

Mr. CVETIC. National level and local.

Mr. MOULDER. Did they have a Negro Commission?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. MOULDER. Did you name it?

Mr. CVETIC. I didn't name it in this group, but there is a Negro Commission. They have a Political Commission, Negro Commission, Steel Commission, and so on. I will go into those later.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is a slightly different thing from the type of Commission you are speaking of at this point?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you continue with your chronology, please.

Mr. CVETIC. I was also secretary of the Slovene Commission of the Communist Party, USA. Originally when I got into the

Slovene Commission I was elected chairman.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are you speaking there of the area of Pittsburgh?

Mr. CVETIC. I am speaking on the national level.

Mr. TAVENNER. The Commission on the national level?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I was first the chairman on the national level and later was made secretary on the national level of this Commission.

Mr. TAVENNER. The Slovene group, then, was one of the numerous groups which you named which was represented on the Nationality Commission?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you have contacts, as Slovene secretary, with the work that was proceeding in communities other than Pittsburgh?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. As chairman or secretary of the Slovene Commission I had Communist Party contacts in New York, Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, and Johnstown. That is in addition to Pittsburgh and the Western Pennsylvania area.

To continue with the chronology of positions I held, I was also a member of the organizational Educational Committee of the Communist Party, Western Pennsylvania, for about three years.

Mr. TAVENNER. Very well. Let us go back at this point to the various cells you first belonged to upon entering the

Communist Party. Can you tell the committee the names of some of the persons you met with as a member of the North Side Club, and also give us the names of the officers of that club.

Mr. CVETIC. One of the members of the North Side Club when I was a member was Joe Mankin. He was the branch organizer there. At the present time he is responsible for Communist Party concentration in the Hotel and Restaurant Union. He is in charge of the cell there now.

Then there is John Vidmar. He worked at the Language Press, 1916 East Street, as a set-up man. He was secretary of this North Side Club.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was his name?

Mr. CVETIC. John Vidmar.

Mr. TAVENNER. V-i-d-m-a-r?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. What do you mean by a set-up man?

Mr. CVETIC. He works in the shop of the Language Press. I am not a printer, but he would set up the job printing in the shop.

Another was Mark Lovett, but I understand he has since been expelled from the Party. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the North Side Club.

Jim Dolsen. He is the Daily Worker editor and correspondent in Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you mean at this time he is?

Mr. CVETIC. He was at that time and still is.

Another member was Eddie Lang. At the present time he is a steward in the Heinz Company plant.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is, a steward in the union at the Heinz Company plant?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes..

Dick Soine; Pete Skertich; Hamp Golden, who also works at the Heinz Company; and Joe Mazzei.

Mr. TAVENNER. You were transferred then into the East End Club. Will you give us the names of the officers in the East End Club?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. In the East End Club Dolly Gainor was chairman.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was she transferred from the Tom Paine Professional Branch along with you?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. When we left the Tom Paine Branch I was transferred first to the North Side and later to the East End Club, and when I was transferred to the East End Club, Dolly Gainor was chairman of the East End Club.

Another member was Esther Roth. She is now employed as Jack Strobel's secretary at the Western Pennsylvania District of the United Office and Professional Workers of America.

Mr. TAVENNER. What about Louis Filetich?

Mr. CVETIC. He was a member of the East End Club when I came there. Ruth Goldman was another member; and Dorothy Sloan

was a member of the East End Club when I went out there.

Mr. TAVENNER. She was also transferred from the Tom Paine Professional Branch?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. Then you were assigned to the Lawrenceville Club. Is that correct?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. What position did you hold there?

Mr. CVETIC. In the Lawrenceville Club I was the branch organizer and Filetich was the secretary.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was he transferred from the East End Club?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. The Lawrenceville Club was formed out of members who were transferred from the East End Club and some new members we recruited in the Lawrenceville area. Some of these members are:

Martin Harrison, who works at Carnegie Steel Company, Etna.

Joseph Migalich, who also works at the Carnegie Steel Company, Etna.

John Jenca, who also works at the Carnegie Steel Company, Etna.

And Eleanor Sackter.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell us what plan was used in the organization of these clubs, the North Side Club, the East End Club, and the Lawrenceville Club? That is, what was the basis for selection of members for those particular clubs?

Mr. CVETIC. In those particular communities the basis of selection was very much on a community level. Communist Party members who lived in these particular areas were assigned to these clubs when there were regroupings ordered by the District Committee. For example, in the North Side Club originally our major activity was organizing Communist Party mass meetings in the park on the North Side. Later on, especially after the 1945 convention, we concentrated our activities in the plants, because that was the Communist Party line after 1945. In the North Side Club we concentrated in such plants as the Heinz Company plant, plants in the Manchester area.

Mr. TAVENNER. What type of plants are you speaking of?

Mr. CVETIC. My activity was mostly limited to Lawrenceville, but from the Section Committee meetings I attended, I knew our comrades or Party members were pretty busy in the Heinz plant trying to build a Party there.

Mr. TAVENNER. When you say in the Heinz Company plant, do you mean any particular group in that plant?

Mr. CVETIC. Within the union. Our members were usually instructed, whenever possible, to become shop stewards or be elected to some position.

Mr. MOULDER. What business is the Heinz Company engaged in?

Mr. CVETIC. It is a food processing plant; I think one of the biggest in the country.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have described the function of this North Side Club. What was the function of the East End Club?

Mr. CVETIC. That functioned on a community level. There were no industries there. It was a residential area, and most of the work out there was distributing Communist Party literature, distributing and selling the Daily and Sunday Worker, and so on, raising funds for the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was the chief function of the Lawrenceville Club?

Mr. CVETIC. That was also a community club, something like the East End Club, although we did have mills and plants there in which we became active. Some of the members were assigned to distributing literature in Lawrenceville plants and in other areas.

Mr. TAVENNER. I understand you were the organizer of the Lawrenceville Club?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. What work did you do while an organizer of that club, with regard to the formation of other cells of the Party?

Mr. CVETIC. I helped to organize a cell in the Crucible Steel Company, which is located at 30th Street in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. How many members were recruited into that cell?

Mr. CVETIC. The top membership at one time was 22 members,

approximately.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were they all employees of the Crucible Steel Company?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, all employees of the Crucible Steel Company.

(Mr. Case enters.)

Mr. TAVENNER. When was this work done by you?

Mr. CVETIC. This was back in 1945 and 1946 when we started recruiting in the Crucible Steel Company.

Mr. MC SWEENEY. I would like the record to show Mr. Case is present.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you furnish the committee with the names of the members of this group in the Crucible Steel Branch of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. I would like to name some of the leaders. Amongst the members of this group were: Joseph "Sonny" Robinson; Zygmund Pascowski, and Mike Filewich. They were the leaders in this particular cell.

Mr. McSWEENEY. What is the origin of the term "cell"?

Mr. CVETIC. While I was in the Communist Party we used that term to designate a particular club. We used club, branch, or cell.

Mr. McSWEENEY. They were interchangeable?

Mr. CVETIC. They were interchangeable. Cell would generally be used in an industry, and a club or branch would be used more

in a community, but when they talk about organizing a group in a plant or a mill, they usually talk of it as a cell, while the activities on a community basis are built more out in the open, and the term club would be used. In a plant, even if they have only two or three members they call it a cell and carry the Party line into the plant with these few members.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have previously testified that in 1944 you were assigned by Max Weiss to work among the language groups. Will you outline to the committee some of your functions under this assignment?

Mr. CVETIC. Max Weiss was district organizer. One of my first assignments was to mobilize the Slovene organizations in Western Pennsylvania for the national convention of the American Slav Congress which was to be held in Pittsburgh in September 1944.

Mr. TAVENNER. What were some of the organizations in the Pittsburgh area within this Slovene group?

Mr. CVETIC. The SNPJ lodges.

Mr. TAVENNER. What do you mean by SNPJ?

Mr. CVETIC. That is a Slovene fraternal organization.

Shall I spell it out?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes.

Mr. CVETIC. S-l-o-v-e-n-s-k-a N-a-r-o-d-n-a P-o-d-p-o-r-n-a
J-e-d-n-o-t-a.

Mr. TAVENNET. What do you mean by that?

Mr. CVETIC. In English it means the Slovenian Mutual Benefit Society.

Another organization was the American Fraternal Union; and the Slovenian American National Council. These were the three main organizations.

I want to point out that these are not Communist Party organizations, but Communist Party members, like myself, who were Slovenes, were instructed by the Communist Party to carry the Party line into these organizations. These are not Communist organizations. They are American fraternal organizations. I want to make that clear.

Mr. TAVENNER. They were organizations which were the objects of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have spoken of a Slovene Commission on a national level. Was there a Slovenian Commission on a local level in Pittsburgh?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. The three leading members of the Commission in Pittsburgh were Anthony Cipic, George Witkovich and myself. We were the leaders of the Commission in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you the chairman of this group?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. As chairman of the Slovenian Commission, you were also a member of the Nationality Commission of the Communist

Party on a national level?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right. I was elected chairman of the Slovenian Commission at a meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, held in Communist Party headquarters.

Mr. TAVENNER. When was that?

Mr. CVETIC. In 1945.

Mr. McSWEENEY. What is the difference between a Slovene and a Slovak; is there any difference?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. Slovenians, Croatians, and Servians come from Yugoslavia. A Slovak comes from Czechoslovakia.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Is it a language or a geographical difference?

Mr. CVETIC. Both language and geographical.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Thank you.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you outline to the committee the procedure that was followed in calling this meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, at which you were elected to the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I met with Avrom Landy in Pittsburgh. He is also known as Al Landy.

Mr. MOULDER. Can you fix the date?

Mr. CVETIC. I can't fix a date on this. I can only fix an approximate time. It was sometime in 1945. When I met with him he asked me to call together the leading members of the Communist Party in the Slovene group. He told me I could get the names of the leading members from George Witkovich. I met

with Witkovich, and he supplied me with the names of the key members in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, New York, and Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. By members do you mean Communist Party members within the Slovene group?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. At this point, I would like to ask you, is Avrom Landy a member of the Communist Party, or was he?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. What else can you tell us about him?

Mr. CVETIC. When I met Avrom Landy he was in charge of nationality work for the Communist Party, USA. These assignments are made by the National Board of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was his purpose in being in Pittsburgh at that time, if you know?

Mr. CVETIC. Specifically, at that time he came to Pittsburgh to meet with the leading Communist Party members from the nationality field at the Language Press. He met with the Communist Party organizers who worked in the International Workers Order, and with the Communist Party members who were responsible for the work in the American Slav Congress.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who is George Witkovich?

Mr. CVETIC. He is a Communist Party member. I have known him to be a member for 15 or 20 years.

Mr. TAVENNER. How did you know he was a member for that period of time, or a member at all?

Mr. CVETIC. I know because George and Landy worked together in the Communist Party. George was editor for the Communist newspaper Naprej, and that was the Slovene Communist newspaper which was published in Pittsburgh and Cleveland in the late thirties.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have said that Avrom Landy sent you to George Witkovich for the names of the leading members of the Communist Party in the Slovene group that you should call together. Why did Landy suggest to you that you get in touch with Witkovich to obtain the names of these leaders?

Mr. CVETIC. George Witkovich was leader in the Slovene Communist Party work in the late thirties, and Landy told me he would have these names and would give them to me.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did Witkovich supply you with the names?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, he did.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you give us the names of such of the leaders as you can recall?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I will give you the names of the key Communist Party members in this Commission which he supplied me with. One of these was John Bostjancich, from Cleveland, Ohio; Martin Cetinski, Detroit, Michigan; Frank Urbancich, Brooklyn, New York; Frank Japich, Chicago, Illinois; Anthony Cipicic, Pittsburgh. These are the key people in the Communist Party's Slovenian Commission.

Mr. TAVENNER. These names which you have just given us

are the names which you procured as a result of the instructions given by Avrom Landy?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. Why was Cleveland, Ohio, selected as the place for this meeting?

Mr. CVETIC. Cleveland, Ohio, was selected as the place for the meeting because there we have the largest concentration of Slovene people in America, and it was felt by Avrom Landy that if we had the meeting there we would have the best turn-out.

Mr. TAVENNER. At this meeting at the Communist Party headquarters in Cleveland, which you called together on instructions from Avrom Landy, what, specifically, was the purpose of the meeting? What was this group going to do?

Mr. CVETIC. The purpose of the meeting as outlined by Avrom Landy was to elect officers to the Slovene Commission of the Communist Party, USA; to discuss plans for editing either a newspaper or a bulletin in the name of the Slovene Communist Party; and to discuss strategy and infiltration into the Slovenian American National Council, which is a form of political action organization.

Mr. TAVENNER. At this meeting, were officers elected to represent the body?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. We elected a chairman, a secretary, and what would be termed a committee or commission of one from

each city to serve on this body.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who were elected as officers?

Mr. CVETIC. At this meeting I was elected as chairman. Jack Lencl from Cleveland, Ohio, was elected as secretary.

Mr. TAVENNER. Other than Jack Lencl and yourself, who were present at this meeting?

Mr. CVETIC. Gus Hall, Communist Party organizer at Cleveland, Ohio, and now a member of the National Board of the Communist Party, USA; Arnold Johnson, present head of the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party, USA; John Bostjancich, Cleveland, Ohio; Martin Cetinski, Detroit, Michigan; and George Witkovich from Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. How many meetings, approximately, did you attend of the Nationality Commission?

Mr. CVETIC. It would be difficult to set a number. In the five or six years I was a member of this Commission I would say on a national level two or three every year. There was no set time for these meetings.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Did you go to these meetings at your own expense, or were your expenses paid for by your organization?

Mr. CVETIC. Usually we went at our own expense. I would almost have to qualify each meeting. There was no set time for these Nationality Commission meetings. They would be called whenever some function was going on in the particular city.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Were you elected to go, or did you just go?

Mr. CVETIC. I was assigned to the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party by the Communist Party leadership.

Mr. McSWEENEY. You were not voted a delegate?

Mr. CVETIC. No. This Nationality Commission of the Communist Party is not a delegated body. It functions similarly to the Politburo in the Kremlin. It is the policy-making body of the Communist Party in the nationality field, and as a member of the Slovene Commission I naturally became a member of the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who called these meetings of the Nationality Commission?

Mr. CVETIC. These meetings were in all cases called by the national leader of the Communist Party in this Commission. While I was a member, Avrom Landy was head of this Commission; Steve Nelson was head of the Commission for over three years; and at the present time Arnold Johnson is at the head of this Commission.

Mr. CASE. Did you know Steve Nelson by any name other than Steve Nelson?

Mr. CVETIC. I knew him by the name of Steve Nelson and Steve Mesarosh.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell us a little more in detail what was discussed at the Nationality Commission meetings, and

what functions the Commission performed?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I will be glad to do that. While I was a member of this Nationality Commission meetings were called when there were Party line changes which had to be taken into nationality work by this Commission.

Nationality Commission meetings were also called when there were functions into which the Communist Party wanted to carry the Communist Party line. Meetings were also called to plan and direct the work of the Communist Party members in the front organizations, the Language Press, fraternal organizations, trade unions and other mass organizations in which they had an interest.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you mean the instructions which Communists received in Communist-front organizations had their origin in this Commission?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct. These were on the basis of policy changes. A member did not volunteer to take the Party line. You were by Party discipline procedure expected to carry the Party line.

Mr. McSWEENEY. I will call a recess at twelve o'clock, and would like to know if the members would like to question the witness at this time or would you rather ask questions at the conclusion of his testimony? What do you think, Mr. Tavenner?

Mr. TAVENNER. I have no real preference.

Mr. KEARNEY. Personally, I would rather let the witness

finish his testimony.

Mr. TAVENNER. It might be a little better. Otherwise you might question him about things that are going to be answered later.

Mr. MOULDER. In my case I have a question that would fit in now, and I probably won't return this afternoon. May I proceed?

Mr. McSWEENEY. Yes.

Mr. MOULDER. My questions are not in the spirit of discrediting any testimony you have given. You made reference to official positions you have held in connection with your Communist Party affiliations. You haven't testified who delegated you to those official positions from national headquarters. Is that in your testimony to follow?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. For example, when I was asked to assume responsibility in the nationality field, I got instructions through Max Weiss. I testified to that. Max Weiss was a member of the District Committee in Western Pennsylvania. His instructions came from the National Board.

Mr. MOULDER. Your connections were only with the district officers at all times?

Mr. CVETIC. Not at all times. My assignments later on came from Steve Nelson, Arnold Johnson, and Avrom Landy.

Mr. MOULDER. Did they issue any documents by way of identification, cards or something else?

Mr. CVETIC. I was going to testify later that until 1948

we were issued Communist Party cards. Since that time, for security reasons, all documents, records, and cards were destroyed.

Mr. MOULLER. And you destroyed yours?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I turned it in.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Mr. Case, can you come back this afternoon?

(Mr. Case confers with Mr. McSweeney.)

(Mr. Nixon arrives.)

Mr. McSWEENEY. Will the record also show Mr. Nixon is present.

Proceed and I will call a recess at twelve o'clock.

Mr. TAVENNER. I interrupted you in your testimony to ask you about the source of the directions or instructions to Communist Party members who were working in different Communist-front organizations. Can you tell us more about the functioning of the Nationality Commission?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. When we stopped I was going into where we carried the Party line.

In 1944 the Nationality Commission met prior to and during the American Slav Congress convention in Pittsburgh. It met prior to and during the national convention of the Croatian Fraternal Union in Pittsburgh in 1947. It met when Party line changes such as the Tito-Stalin split occurred, to announce that the Party line to be followed would be as directed by the Cominform.

Mr. TAVENNER. Then when that Communist Party line was settled upon, it was necessary that all members working under that group carry out that policy?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. Communist discipline made it mandatory. Vacillation meant you could not remain a member of the Party. For example, the Titoites were automatically expelled.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was the policy sent to your Commission, or was it formed by your Commission?

Mr. CVETIC. It was sent down to the Commission. It was never formed there. I was a member of the Party seven years. I have never been responsible for forming the policy. The orders came down through district organizers, from the National Board

Mr. McSweeney. Where did they get their policy?

Mr. CVETIC. I don't think I can answer that. With the exception of attending the national convention of the Communist Party in 1945, I never attended National Board meetings of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you give us the names of the officers and members of the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party, that is, the Commission that functioned on a national level?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. These are members with whom I have attended meetings:

Avrom Landy was chairman from 1944, when I first joined, until the national convention of the Communist Party in 1945. After the national convention of the Communist Party in 1945,

Steve Nelson, who returned from the West Coast, was made chairman and served from July 1945 until August 1948.

After August 1948 Arnold Johnson was made chairman and at the present time he is still chairman of this Commission.

Among the members nationally of the Nationality Commission with whom I have met are the following:

George Pirinsky, executive secretary of the American Slav Congress.

Harry Justiz, attorney, New York City.

Leo Fisher, editor of Narodni Glasnik.

Mane Susnjari, editor of Slobodna Reč, Pittsburgh.

Calvin Brook, B-r-o-o-k, and he also spealls it B-r-u-c-k, editor of Ludovy Noviny.

Abner Green, executive secretary, American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born.

Sam Milgrom, officer of the International Workers Order.

Israel Amter, now deceased. He was a member of the International Workers Order.

Michael Hanusiak, organizer, International Workers Order.

Daniel Kasustchik, organizer, Russian Section.

Boleslaw Gebert, organizer, Polish Section, who fled to Poland on The Gydnia-American Line ship The Batory.

Victor Sharenkoff, Bulgarian Section.

Tony Gerlach, New York City.

Michael Tkach, Ukrainian Section.

Zarko Buncich, attorney, Akron, Ohio. I don't think he is active at present. I haven't met with him for the last four years or so.

Peter Vukceovich, Servian IWO.

Anthony Minerich, Croatian, editor Rodni Glasnik.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did these individuals whose names you have listed serve on the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party at the same time, or at various times over a period of years?

Mr. CVETIC. They served over a period of years, from 1944 up until the present time.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, this committee in 1949 held a hearing on the activities of Toma Babin. Did you know Toma Babin?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I did. I knew him as Toma Babin and also as Tom Babin.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was he, to your knowledge, a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I knew Tom to be a member of the Communist Party because I attended Nationality Commission meetings, of the Communist Party, with Toma Babin.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you attend a meeting on June 21, 1947, in room 208 of the Hotel Lincoln in New York City?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I did.

Mr. TAVENNER. What instructions did you receive with regard to this meeting?

Mr. CVETIC. At that time I was in the American Slav Congress offices at Pittsburgh, and I was called by Leo Fisher and told that the Nationality Commission was going to meet in New York City and that Steve Nelson sent instructions that I should come on to New York to attend this meeting.

I went to New York. My instructions were to go to the Yugoslav Home there. I was under the impression that that was where the meeting would be held.

Mr. TAVENNER. Where was the meeting to be held, and how did you learn where it was to be held?

Mr. CVETIC. When I arrived at the Yugoslav Home--

Mr. TAVENNER. That is located at 405 West 31st Street?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. When I arrived there I was met by Pete Vukceovich. He told me to keep the FBI off the trail we were all going to this meeting place separately. He escorted me to the Hotel Lincoln and to room 208, where the meeting was held.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, on May 27, 1949, Toma Babin appeared before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and denied that he had attended this meeting or had any knowledge of its existence. He also denied knowing Leo Bacich, Harry Justiz, George Pirinsky and others whom the Committee understood to have been present at this meeting. Was Toma Babin in attendance at this meeting?

Mr. CVETIC. Absolutely.

Mr. TAVENNER. Absolutely yes or no?

Mr. CVETIC. Absolutely yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were Leo Bacich, Harry Justiz and George Pirinsky also in attendance at this meeting?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you outline to this committee the persons who were at this meeting and the purpose for which the meeting was held?

Mr. CVETIC. Steve Nelson, who was at that time chairman of the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party, USA; Leo Bacich, representative of the Croatian Section of the Communist Party; Harry Justiz, representative of the Croatian Section of the Communist Party; George Pirinsky, representative of the Macedonian Section; Tony Gerlach, Sr., representative of the Croatian Section of the Communist Party; Leo Fisher, representative of the Croatian Section of the Communist Party; myself as representative of the Slovenian Section of the Communist Party; Daisy Lolich, representative of the Serbian Section of the Communist Party; and a representative of the Croatian Section of the Communist Party of Canada by the name of Yardish.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know Yardish's first name?

Mr. CVETIC. I do not.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you recall any others who were present at this meeting?

Mr. CVETIC. Toma Babin was at this meeting. Dr. Slavko

Zore from the Yugoslav Embassy was there; and another member of the Yugoslav Embassy staff was present.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know what position in the Yugoslav Embassy Dr. Slavko Zore held?

Mr. CVETIC. At the present time it skips me, but I knew at that time. I met with him at various times in the Yugoslav Home and at the Embassy.

Mr. TAVENNER. You state there was another person from the Yugoslav Embassy present. Was that Pero Dragila?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, he was there.

Mr. TAVENNER. Tell us exactly what took place at this meeting.

Mr. CVETIC. This meeting was called by Steve Nelson for the purpose of discussing the work of the Nationality Commission and the various nationality groups.

The meeting began shortly after eight o'clock. It was opened by Leo Fisher, who was made chairman of this meeting. He presented a report on the activities of the Croatian Fraternal Union--and here I want to mention not the activities of the union, but the activities of the Communist Party members, and the success they were attaining in connection with a convention that was to be held that year. He reported in detail the steps that were being taken in the elections of this organization, and reported also that his information showed that the majority of the delegates elected to the Croatian Fraternal Union convention were on our side.

Mr. TAVENNER. What do you mean by "our side"?

Mr. CVETIC. That we had won them over to the Communist Party program.

At this meeting Fisher also mentioned the possible candidates to be supported at this convention. I will qualify this so that we will not believe everybody elected was a Communist. The Communist Party had a line to elect as many as possible who would cooperate. He pointed out that the majority of delegates were elected by the Communist Party members and they would support the candidates proposed by the Progressive Coalition slate.

Mr. TAVENNER. In other words, it didn't mean everybody elected by the Communist Party members were Communist Party members?

Mr. CVETIC. No. It was a deal. One or two were Communist Party members, but others were a part of the Progressive Coalition slate.

Mr. TAVENNER. In working for this Progressive Coalition slate, did those who were not Communists know that they were working for Communists?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, because Anthony Minerich and others I mentioned were known Communists, and anyone who worked for them worked on that basis.

Mr. KEARNEY. Did you say "no" Communists or "known" Communists?

Mr. CVETIC. Known Communists.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have told us about the report at this meeting by Leo Fisher. Were there other reports?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. Daisy Lolich reported that the Communist Party had not been able to elect any delegates to the Serbian National Federation Convention which was to be held at a future date. Miss Lolich also pointed out that we had even lost representation in this organization.

Pete Vukceovich reported that in New York City small advances had been made by the Communist Party in at least three lodges of the Serbian National Federation.

I presented a report on the Slovenian American National Council convention which had been held in Cleveland, Ohio, during the latter part of May 1947. I reported that inasmuch as the Social Democrats within that organization staged a fight among themselves on the floor, we were successful in electing seven Communist Party members to the Executive Board and Committee of this organization.

Following my report--and this was around 9:15--Dr. Slavko Zore and Pero Dragila came into the meeting, escorted by Toma Babin. Dr. Zore immediately raised a question as to why Anne Traven from the United Committee of South Slavic Americans had not been invited.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you identify for the committee the United Committee of South Slavic Americans?

Mr. CVETIC. This Committee was set up by the Communist

Party, USA, for the purpose of disseminating their political propaganda of the new Yugoslav Government under Marshal Tito. This, of course, was before the Tito-Stalin split. Some of the officers and leaders of this Committee were Louis Adamio, Zlatko Balokivich, Anne Traven, Pete Vukceovich, Leo Bacich and Harry Justiz. They are not all Communist Party members.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Counsel, have you brought out what that Committee does?

Mr. TAVENNER. Explain a little more in detail the purposes of this Committee.

Mr. CVETIC. The Committee issued bulletins; it issued pamphlets.

Mr. TAVENNER. I think Congressman Case had reference to the United Committee of South Slavic Americans,

Mr. CASE. I meant the Committee you differentiated by saying, after you gave their names, that they were not necessarily Communists. I want to know what that Committee did that these people were members of.

Mr. TAVENNER. Explain the functions of that Committee.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Were you still describing the meeting?

Mr. CVETIC. I was going into a discussion of the United Committee of South Slavic Americans, and I think Congressman Case would like to know what that Committee was.

Mr. CASE. That is right.

Mr. CVETIC. Members of this Committee like Louis Adamio

and Zlatko Balokivich worked with known Communist members to form this Committee. Both Louis Adamic and Zlatko Balokivich knew the people they were working with were known Communists, so it was actually a Communist-front organization.

The purpose of the Committee was to disseminate political propaganda in the United States about the government of Marshal Tito. This was done by distributing pamphlets and bulletins, organizing meetings, and so on.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Mr. Kearney would like to ask a few questions.

Mr. KEARNEY. I understood you to say previously in your testimony that on one particular occasion when you journeyed to a meeting your expenses were not paid by the Party. Were your expenses paid to this meeting?

Mr. CVETIC. Shall I generalize on this?

Mr. KEARNEY. What I am getting at is, have your expenses been paid to any of these meetings?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. Some of the expenses of attending these meetings were paid by the American Slav Congress when I was an officer there.

Mr. KEARNEY. Were your expenses ever paid by the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. No.

Mr. KEARNEY. Not at all?

Mr. CVETIC. No.

Mr. KEARNEY. In all your journeys through the country, none of your expenses were paid by the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Were these people Progressives or pro-Communists?

Mr. CVETIC. The editor of the Croatian newspaper met regularly with some members of our Commission, knowing they were Communist Party members. That is Filip Vukelich.

Mr. KEARNEY. I would like to develop that a little further, but I see the time has expired.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Let us stand at recess until two o'clock.

(Thereupon, at twelve o'clock noon, a recess was taken until two o'clock of the same day.)

Afternoon Session

(The subcommittee reconvened at 2:55 p.m.)

Mr. WOOD. The committee will be in order.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, at the time of our morning recess, the witness was narrating what occurred at a meeting in the Lincoln Hotel, New York City, in room 208, on June 21, 1947, which was attended, as he testified, by Steve Nelson and a number of other people, and Toma Babin, who was before this committee at one time. The witness has testified that Toma Babin was present with those people, and you will recall the testimony by Babin here was that he denied being there and denied knowing the people who were mentioned as being there.

Mr. WOOD. Let the record show that for the purpose of this afternoon's session there are present Mr. McSweeney, Mr. Kearney and myself as a subcommittee.

You may proceed.

Mr. TAVENNER. The witness had also testified that Dr. Zore of the Yugoslav Embassy was brought into this meeting by Toma Babin, and that Dr. Zore had asked why it was that a person by the name of Anne Traven had not been invited to the meeting.

TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW CVETIC (Resumed)

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you begin there, Mr. Cvetic, and state what reply was given as to why Anne Traven, a member of the United Committee of South Slavic Americans, had not been invited to this meeting?

Mr. CVETIC. In answer to Dr. Zore's question, Steve Nelson stated that he was of the opinion that she should not attend this meeting as he could not vouch for her, but that he could vouch for all the others present.

Mr. TAVENNER. After that statement, tell us what occurred at the meeting.

Mr. CVETIC. After that the principal topic of discussion, the United Committee of South Slavic Americans, was taken up. Leo Fisher reported that during a recent United Committee meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, Louis Adamic had stated that unless the Committee raised a fund of \$35,000 to complete the functioning, he would drop out of the organization.

According to Fisher, Louis Adamic also stated that the Committee was in debt to the sum of \$4,000 and at the present time was accomplishing nothing. Fisher concluded his report by advancing the opinion that the United Committee should be made a part of the American Slav Congress.

A lengthy discussion ensued with regard to the latter suggestion, and there were many divergences of opinion. Dr. Zore, from the Yugoslav Embassy, speaking in Croatian, remarked that the present sad state of affairs with regard to the United Committee must be blamed on the Communist Party and no one else. He said: "We must not work as Americans or Yugoslavs, but as Communists working for a common purpose. Our Party and its members must realize that the United Committee is their res-

ponsibility."

Dr. Zore sharply criticized those who felt there was no need for the United Committee as being shortsighted, and stressed that the movement must not suffer the loss of Louis Adamic's leadership.

He mentioned that the \$4,000 debt of the United Committee could be taken care of, and that it was nothing to worry about. Dr. Zore stated in order to continue the Committee's work the Communist Party must assign responsibility to comrades in New York, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago and elsewhere to work with this Committee.

Dr. Zore also stated that it was not desirable at this time that the United Committee become a mass organization like the American Slav Congress; that all that should be required would be a small committee operating in each community, responsible for the United Committee's work.

Dr. Zore stated that the Yugoslav Embassy was ready to help by sending two or three people from Yugoslavia into the various localities to speak at any meetings which could be organized through this Committee.

Dr. Zore further stated: "We Communist Party members at the Yugoslav Embassy had a meeting and came to the conclusion that the United Committee must be continued; that the Communist Party is on top and assumes leadership in Yugoslavia, and the Communists here in the United States must, in their own way, assume

leadership and take the responsibilities for carrying on the Committee's work."

Dr. Zore also mentioned that Dr. Vladko Macek--

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you spell that name?

Mr. CVETIC. Dr. Vladko Macek, M-a-c-e-k, had met with former Ambassador Fotich--

Mr. TAVENNER. How do you spell it?

Mr. CVETIC. F-o-t-i-c-h, in the United States, and that these individuals were working to overthrow the present government in Yugoslavia. He alleged that Fotich has worked as a British agent for more than 33 years.

Dr. Zore addressed those present as comrades, and referred to himself as a Communist Party member. He pointed out several times that it does not matter whether one is American or Yugoslavian, he should work as a Communist and bear in mind that his entire responsibility is to the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Let me stop you there a moment. In stating that his responsibility is to the Communist Party, how was his responsibility to this Government considered in relation to his alleged responsibility to the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. In the Communist Party, as long as I have been a member, a responsibility to this Government was never considered. Your responsibility was always to the Communist Party, and under Communist discipline you had to carry out the instructions of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Then in case of a conflict of interest

between the Communist Party and the United States, the primary allegiance was to the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. Continue, please.

Mr. CVETIC. Pero Dragila also delivered an address echoing the sentiments of Dr. Zore.

Mr. KEARNEY. Mr. Chairman, I hesitate to break in at this point, but in my own mind there is something that I think should be cleared up. When the witness says a responsibility to the Communist Party, does the gentleman mean the Communist Party of the United States, the International Communist Party, the leadership of which, according to reports, is in Moscow, or just what does the gentleman mean?

Mr. CVETIC. I will try to clarify this. We have a Communist Party in the U.S.A. In Communist Party meetings when we referred to the Communist Party, or to bringing Communism, we never referred to bringing Communism to one country, to one city, to one community, or to one state. In Communist Party classes, in discussions, we always talked about bringing international Communism, working in the Communist Party to bring international Communism. The responsibility of a Communist, when we talk about a Communist Party, is to this international Communist movement.

Mr. KEARNEY. Where is that headed from?

Mr. CVETIC. This is taken from the books on theory and

practice, and later in the testimony, if I may, I will substantiate that with excerpts from the teachings of Marx and Lenin which we have used in classes while I was in the Communist Party.

Mr. KEARNEY. Where are your orders taken from?

Mr. CVETIC. Orders in this country have come down from the National Board of the Communist Party, USA.

Mr. KEARNEY. Where do they take their orders from?

Mr. CVETIC. As I mentioned before, I never attended meetings of the National Board of the Communist Party, USA, but the classes which were organized were organized with the authority of the National Board of the Communist Party, and these classes, based on the teachings of Marx and Lenin, were, without deviation, that we were working for an international Communist movement.

Mr. TAVENNER. And is that taught to the rank and file of the Communist Party through the cells such as those you were a member of?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, that is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. I will ask you further questions about that later on in your testimony. You have told us that the same line of argument was made by Pero Dragila as that made by Dr. Zore. Will you proceed?

Mr. CVETIC. Following the discussion, Steve Nelson proposed the following conclusions, which were accepted by those in

attendance:

First, the American Slav Congress should be the Communist Party's top organization in the United States, and it will continue to work as a mass organization.

Second, Leo Fisher, Daisy Lolich, and myself are assigned to be responsible for the work of the United Committee of South Slavic Americans in Pittsburgh; and Leo Bacich and Harry Justiz are to assume that Committee's responsibility in New York.

Upon Leo Fisher's opposition to the above conclusion, and that was in regard to himself, it was decided he should assume responsibility for the United Committee's work in Pittsburgh only until Anthony Minerich's return from Yugoslavia.

The third conclusion was that the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief and the American Association for Reconstruction in Yugoslavia will continue on the present basis.

Just prior to the adjournment of this meeting, the Canadian representative, Yardish, proposed that an organization somewhat akin to Amtorg be set up to handle transactions for machinery and so forth for Yugoslavia. No decision was made concerning this suggestion, although it was mentioned that Harry Justiz should devote some of his own time to the consideration of same.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 a.m. June 22, 1947. After the meeting Dr. Zore met with Steve Nelson and sharply criticized him for not exerting better discipline amongst the members of the Nationality Commission.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, you have testified that Steve Nelson advised that the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief and the American Association for Reconstruction in Yugoslavia would continue on the present basis. Were these two organizations completely controlled by the Communist Party, USA?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. While we had many non-Communists fronting in these organizations, the policy for these organizations was discussed and decided upon at meetings of the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party, USA.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was the attitude of the Nationality Commission toward the Tito regime in Yugoslavia?

Mr. CVETIC. You mean since the break with the Cominform?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes.

Mr. CVETIC. The Nationality Commission, following this break, immediately organized a campaign attacking Tito as an "enemy of the people's democracy." These attacks were carried into the language newspapers which the Communist Party controlled, into Political Affairs, which is the Communist press political outlet, and into the Daily and Sunday Worker. Tito's action and break with the Cominform was branded as Titoism, and anyone who did not follow the new Communist line regarding Tito was branded a Titoite and expelled from the Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. What happened of significance within the ranks of the Communist Party and its front organizations as a result of this complete turnabout in Party line regarding Tito?

Mr. CVETIC. There was a serious rift among Americans of Yugoslav descent within the Communist Party. This breach has become so serious that the Communist Party has required its leaders to speak out violently against Tito.

These words were spoken by Steve Nelson at a meeting I attended recently in Pittsburgh, called specifically for the purpose of cementing the break within the Communist Party on this issue: "We must fight against Titoism wherever it rears its ugly head."

He elaborated by saying anyone who does not follow the Cominform line will be expelled from the Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, other than the meeting held in the Hotel Lincoln, to which you have testified, what other recent meetings were held by the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party, and where were they held?

Mr. CVETIC. I met with this Commission from 1944 up to 1950 in New York, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, and Chicago, always before conventions of front organizations, during conferences, and so on. The Pittsburgh Commission, during 1944 and 1945, met regularly in the offices of the International Workers Order, which at that time were located in the Columbia Bank Building. We also met in the offices of the Language Press at 1916 East Street. We met at 440 Wood Street, third floor. Since we used to meet there that building has been torn down. Recently we have been meeting at 943 Liberty

Avenue and Ukranian Hall, South Side Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is at 440 Wood Street?

Mr. CVETIC. At the time we met there one of the members of the Communist Party had a music store at that address and the third floor was used by the Communist Party in Pittsburgh for Party meetings.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who owned or operated that music store?

Mr. CVETIC. George Dietze.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was he a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, and still is.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is at 943 Liberty Avenue?

Mr. CVETIC. This same George Dietze operates an engraving shop on the second floor of 943 Liberty Avenue. Part of this building is used as a travel bureau, and the back part of his shop on the second floor is used as a meeting place for the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. When was the last meeting of the Pittsburgh Nationality Commission that you attended?

Mr. CVETIC. The latter part of October or first part of November 1949. The Commission has not met since that time, because Steve Nelson, the chairman of the Pittsburgh Commission, has been laid up with a broken leg.

Mr. TAVENNER. Where was the last meeting held?

Mr. CVETIC. The last meeting I attended was at 1916 East Street, the office of the Communist Language Press. This

meeting was called for the purpose of setting up an American Yugoslav Defense Committee of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who attended this last meeting in October or November, 1949?

Mr. CVETIC. This meeting was attended by Steve Nelson, the district organizer for the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania; Mane Susnjar; Leo Fisher, Tony Minerich, Calvin Brook, and myself.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you give us the dates and places of other Nationality Commission meetings subsequent to the meeting at the Lincoln Hotel in New York?

Mr. CVETIC. I can give you some prior to and subsequent to such date.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you do that, please?

Mr. CVETIC. During the summer of 1944 the Nationality Commission met regularly in offices of the International Workers Order in the Columbia Bank Building, and also in offices of the Communist Party in the Bakewell Building in Pittsburgh, for the purpose of planning the national convention of the American Slav Congress, which was scheduled to be held in Pittsburgh in September of that year.

I attended most of these meetings as a member of the National Commission. Avrom Landy, who was in charge of the Nationality Commission for the Communist Party, made several

visits to Pittsburgh during these months to help plan the work. Other Communist Party members who helped plan the work for this convention, and who were specifically assigned to this work by the Communist Party, were the following:

Mary Pridhoff Pirinsky, who at that time was the wife of George Pirinsky.

Helen Vrabel, who is now in New York and is the wife of Mike Saunders.

Mike Hanusiak; Anthony Minerich; Calvin Brook; Mane Susnjar; Pete Vukceovich; Milo Mamula; Agnes Vukceovich, the wife of Pete; George Pirinsky; and myself.

For this convention, the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania also assigned Pauline Roth to help Mary Pirinsky set up the technical work for the convention.

At these meetings we hammered out Communist policy to be used at the American Slav Congress convention.

Mr. TAVENNER. When you say "we", you mean we of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. We of the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party. We discussed what resolutions would be presented at the convention; we discussed the names of the various Party members who were to be proposed for offices in the American Slav Congress; we discussed statements that should be issued to the press in connection with the convention; we decided on the speakers who should be invited to the convention;

set up all the committees and assigned Communist Party members to serve on the various committees such as resolutions, nominations, credentials, arrangements, and other convention committees.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was there anything that you of the Nationality Commission discussed at this policy-making meeting that was not realized at the American Slav Congress convention in September 1944?

Mr. CVETIC. No. We had absolute control of that convention. Every function of that convention, the directing of it, the carrying out of the policies, for the entire convention, was in the hands of Communist Party members. While there were non-Communists in attendance, the direction was in the hands of Communist Party members.

Mr. TAVENNER. Go to the next meeting of the Nationality Commission and tell us about that.

Mr. CVETIC. This meeting was held prior to the meeting I just reported in my testimony here, and that was in 1944 also. I met with the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party in Cleveland, Ohio. This meeting in Cleveland was held in the form of a caucus, or I should say several caucuses, during a meeting of the National Committee of the American Slav Congress, in the hotel where this meeting was being held.

There were several caucuses held by the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party during this Committee meeting, and these were led by Avrom Landy and attended by the following

Communist Party members: George Pirinsky, Leo Bacich, Harry Justiz, Daniel Kasustchik, Victor Sharenkoff, Mike Hanusiak, myself, and several others.

Mr. TAVENNER. What other meetings of the national Nationality Commission did you attend, other than those you have referred to?

Mr. CVETIC. I would like to add to my testimony on this Cleveland meeting that Avrom Landy called these caucuses, and I acted as messenger for Avrom Landy to tell the other members that this meeting would be held.

Mr. TAVENNER. What other meetings, in addition to these two, did you attend?

Mr. CVETIC. I attended a meeting of the Nationality Commission at the office of the International Workers Order in New York in the latter part of 1948. This meeting, which was called for the purpose of discussing policy in the American Slav Congress, the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, and the Language Press, was called by Arnold Johnson, who at that time was head of the Nationality Commission for the Communist Party, having replaced Steve Nelson, who was sent to Western Pennsylvania.

This meeting was attended by : Abner Green, Israel Amter, George Pirinsky, Sam Milgrom, Harry Justiz, Leo Bacich, myself, and several others.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who are the members of the Western Pennsylv-

vania Nationality Commission?

Mr. CVETIC. When I first became a member of this Commission, Max Weiss, who was district organizer of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania, was the head of this Commission. I will add here that the district organizer of the Communist Party in a given district is also the head of the local Nationality Commission. He calls the meetings.

Mr. TAVLNER. The district organizer of the Communist Party, whoever he may be, in Western Pennsylvania, is automatically the chairman of the Nationality Commission for Western Pennsylvania; is that true?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right. After Max Weiss left, Roy Hudson became district organizer in Western Pennsylvania, and he became head of the local Nationality Commission.

In 1948 Steve Nelson was assigned as district organizer for Western Pennsylvania, and since that time he has been chairman of the Nationality Commission for Western Pennsylvania and has called the meetings.

Shall I add the names of the members of the local Commission to my testimony?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes. I should like to have the names of the members of the Western Pennsylvania Nationality Commission.

Mr. CVETIC. These are the members of the Western Pennsylvania Nationality Commission with whom I have met, and on many occasions:

Croatian Section: Anthony Minerish; Frank Borich; Arthur Bartl; Steve Mirkovich; Frank Tradej; Leo Fisher; Mary Sumrak; Anna Devunich; and Steve Devunich.

Serbian Section: Milo Manula; George Wuchinich; Mane Susnjari; Charles Vuick; Drago Kowich; and Niek Baltich.

Slovak Section: Calvin Brook; John Rusin; and John Zuskar.

Ukrainian Section: Mike Hanusiak.

Jewish Section: Max Jenkins; Abe Strauss; and Jack Begler.

Polish Section: Joe Rudiak; Paul Kluvo.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, are these people you have just named as being members of the Nationality Commission of Western Pennsylvania presently members of the Nationality Commission?

Mr. CVETIC. I would say every one with the exception of Abe Strauss, who has been transferred to Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. TAVENNER. You testified that in 1944, sometime in that year, you were told and directed to join and take an active part in the activities of the American Slav Congress in the Pittsburgh area; is that correct?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you first receive an office in the American Slav Congress?

Mr. CVETIC. I held a minor position with the American Slav Congress in Western Pennsylvania from 1944 on. However, in 1947 the Nationality Commission directed that I be made the executive secretary. When these instructions were received, I

was officially elected, at a meeting of the American Slav Congress Executive Committee, to serve as executive secretary.

Mr. TAVENNER. Prior to the time you were made executive secretary, had you been appointed a delegate to the American Slav Congress?

Mr. CVETIC. I went to the American Slav Congress in 1944 as a delegate from the State, County and Municipality Professional Workers. This is now the UPOWA.

Mr. TAVENNER. How were the appointed or selected as a delegate?

Mr. CVETIC. Again, in the Nationality Commission meetings I was asked to do my best to become a delegate to this convention. I went to my union, spoke to the Communist Party members in it, and said that when we had our next meeting they should propose from the floor that I be a delegate to the next convention. They proposed me and I was elected.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was your union at that time?

Mr. CVETIC. It was the union within the United States Employment Service in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. And the name of the union?

Mr. CVETIC. Local 196 of the State, County and Municipality Professional Workers of America.

At this convention in 1944 which I attended, I was elected a member of the National Committee of the American Slav Congress and served on the National Committee from that time until the

present time, and I am still a member of the National Committee.

Mr. TAVENNER. You stated you were a member of the State, County and Municipality Professional Workers?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you become a member of that union?

Mr. CVETIC. Sometime in September 1941.

Mr. TAVENNER. Of what national organization was that an affiliate?

Mr. CVETIC. At that time it was an affiliate of the CIO. We functioned in the United States Employment Service in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know how that union was organized or formed, or had it been formed before you joined it?

Mr. CVETIC. It was formed before I joined it. However, I was elected organizer for the union after I joined, upon instructions from the Communist Party. Some of the members, like Sidney Horwitz, sat down with me first and asked me to join. I was later asked to serve as organizer, and the Communist Party members supported me. That was before I became a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have told us as a result of the proposal on the floor of the convention from that union, you were elected to a position within the Congress?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you explained fully how you happened

to run for that position, or not?

Mr. CVETIC. I mentioned before we planned at the Nationality Commission meetings--and we held many of them before the 1944 convention of the American Slav Congress-- the work of the convention. At one of these Nationality Commission meetings it was decided I should be a member of the National Committee, and my name was submitted at the convention and I became a member.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have before me a copy of this committee's report on the American Slav Congress and Associated Organizations, dated June 26, 1949, and opposite page 24 there is a reproduction of a photograph, included in the Souvenir Journal of the Third American Slav Congress which was held in 1946, of the officers and nationality vice presidents of the American Slav Congress elected in the 1944 convention. Will you look at this photograph, please, examine it, and tell us which of the persons appearing in the photograph were proposed by the Communist Party for their respective offices, and not only those that were suggested by the Communist Party for those offices, but which of those were actually Communist Party members?

Mr. CVETIC. I will first name the Communist Party members. The Communist Party members proposed and elected were: Zarko Buncich, Smeale Voydanoff, George Pirinsky, Michael Tkach, Daniel Kasustchik, and Boleslaw Gebert.

In addition to these Communist Party members, we also supported Leo Krzycki, George Buban, Joseph Martinek. In

regard to the latter three I don't know whether or not they are members of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Within the offices of the American Slav Congress, was there a Communist Party cell that met independently of the Executive Committee of the American Slav Congress and which dictated the policies to any extent of the American Slav Congress?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. The policy that the Communist Party carried into the American Slav Congress was handed down by the head of the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party. This person, while I was a member of the Nationality Commission, was either Avrom Landy, Steve Nelson, Arnold Johnson, or George Pirinsky. It was handed down first from one of these national figures to the national Nationality Commission, then to the local Nationality Commissions, and from there it was taken to the Executive Committee meetings of the American Slav Congress, both on a national and local level.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who were the Party members from the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party who carried out the Communist Party dictates with reference to the policies to be adopted by the American Slav Congress?

Mr. CVETIC. George Pirinsky, Steve Krall, Charles Muzil, Harry Justiz, Leo Bacich. These are all Communist Party members, because I have attended Nationality Commission meetings of the Communist Party with them.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were the majority of the members of the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party officers or directors of the American Slav Congress?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I would say the majority of the members of the Nationality Commission were either office holders, members of the National Committee, or members of the Executive Committee of the American Slav Congress.

Mr. TAVENNER. I believe you mentioned Boleslaw Gebert as one whose name appears in the paper I have shown you?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is he a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. You knew him as a Party member?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, the staff has information that Boleslaw Gebert was arrested and held for deportation as far back as February, 1933. While he was never deported, he fled to Poland on the Batory on August 16, 1947. He is now Polish Trade Union delegate to the United Nations.

Mr. Cvetic, you referred also to the name of George Wuchinich. Do you know him as a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. How do you know that?

Mr. CVETIC. Three or four years ago I was visiting in New York with George Wuchinich and we met with Steve Nelson to

discuss policy regarding the American Slav Congress. We took a walk with Steve Nelson, and in the course of the conversation Steve Nelson told George Wuchinich that he should be a member of the Communist Party, and after a little talk between Steve and George and myself, George Wuchinich asked Steve Nelson how he could join.

"Well," Steve said, "you should be one of the members at large because of your importance, and not a card-carrying member." He said, "As a matter of fact, even Matt here should not know you are a member of the Party. So from now on you will be a Communist Party member, but keep it to yourself. Only the three of us will know."

Since that time, George Wuchinich has become a member of the McKeesport Branch in Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. TAVENNER. What business did you and George Wuchinich have in New York when you went there and met with Steve Nelson?

Mr. CVETIC. I went there to discuss American Slav policy with George Pirinsky, and George Wuchinich was with me. While we were there we saw Steve Nelson. We met him near the office of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. What position did Wuchinich at that time have in the American Slav Congress in Western Pennsylvania?

Mr. CVETIC. At that time he was active in some veteran organization, and he began working with me in the American Slav Congress.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did he later succeed you as executive secretary of the American Slav Congress in Western Pennsylvania?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. The way this came about, Roy Hudson, who was the district organizer for the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania, asked me to meet with him and George Wuchinich at the YMCA in Pittsburgh. We had lunch there. At that time Roy Hudson asked if I would be willing to withdraw as executive secretary so George Wuchinich could succeed me. Roy said: "Since George Wuchinich is a veteran, he would not be subject to attack." So I agreed to step aside.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, on June 26, 1949, as I indicated a while ago, the Committee on Un-American Activities released a report on the American Slav Congress. Then the American Slav Congress of Western Pennsylvania released the following statement:

"At a special meeting today, the Executive Board of the American Slav Congress of Western Pa., issued the following statement:

'We condemn the House Un-American Activities Committee for its smears against our organization. This most recent attack, one of many in the past two years, is directed less against us than it is against all people, and in particular the Slavic Americans who work in the mills and mines.

'We remind Mr. John Wood, present Committee Chairman, just as we did his predecessors, Messrs. Rankin

and Thomas, that we have always supported the best interests of the American people on every occasion.

'Our organization in the past war was in the front line fighting to defend our country in the armed forces, as well as in industry. Several million sons and daughters of Slavic Americans served in the Army, Navy and Air Force, the greatest single group of any being the one million Polish Americans.

'Today we are in the front line for peace and security - for the principles outlined by the late President Roosevelt in his grand design of friendship with all nations of the world including the Soviet Union.

'We have not changed.

'Look at the record of this Un-American Committee, which is rightly named. During the war Messrs. Thomas and Dies spoke at Bundist meetings when our country was in mortal danger.

'Traitors are pointing the finger at patriots, today.

'Our record is open and clear. We stand for peace, progress and security - one world at peace.'

That is signed Joseph Rudiak, President; Matthew Cvetic, Secretary. Would you tell us how this statement came to be drafted and drawn and signed?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. This statement was drafted after a meeting between Steve Nelson, George Wuchinich, and myself. The actual

statement was drafted by George Wuchinich.

Mr. TAVENNER. What prompted the drafting of the statement?

Mr. CVETIC. It wasn't quite a question of prompting. We met almost daily with Steve Nelson since he came to Pittsburgh, and as these attacks on the Communist Party would come out, we would discuss what to do. Once it would be to get out a statement answering the House Un-American Activities Committee, and many of these answers would be in the nature of character assassinations; the next time it would be to discuss, maybe, the mine strike and what the American Slav Congress would do in the mine strike, and so on.

Mr. TAVENNER. In other words, the answer given by the American Slav Congress was actually prepared by the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. I can say this: Steve Nelson would come in the offices of the American Slav Congress in Pittsburgh and meet with us just about daily, or meet with us across the street at Tambellin's.

Mr. TAVENNER. And that statement of the American Slav Congress was the Communist Party line on that subject?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. At the present time, who are the officers of the American Slav Congress for Western Pennsylvania?

Mr. CVETIC. At the present time Joseph Rudiak is chairman and I am secretary-treasurer.

Mr. TAVENNER. You are secretary-treasurer?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. How much funds have you got?

I notice in this statement practically every former chairman of this committee was attacked. I wonder why they didn't go further and attach the present chairman?

Mr. CVETIC. I think the reason for that is that in the last few months we haven't been able to raise many funds, and since I have become secretary I haven't been too active, especially in the last eight or ten months, so maybe that is the reason there haven't been too many attacks in the last eight or ten months.

Mr. WOOD. Is the Communist Party line of smearing members of this committee carried into other Communist front organizations as it was carried into the American Slav Congress?

Mr. CVETIC. Oh, yes. I don't have all my notes here, but I have attended conferences of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born and other front organizations, and the major part of the conferences was taken up smearing the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, the House Un-American Activities Committee, and individual chairmen of this committee.

Mr. KEARNEY. In other words, you smeared everybody who didn't agree with you?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right. I read the Pittsburgh news-

papers this morning, and I am getting a little of that myself.

Mr. TAVENNER. I will ask you additional questions about these other Communist front organizations when we arrive at that stage of your testimony. You spoke of Joseph Rudiak. He was one of those who signed that statement.

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was he a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. He is a member now.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was he a member at the time that answer to this committee was made?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. How do you know him to be a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. I have attended many policy-making meetings of the Communist Party with Joseph Rudiak.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, you spoke at length about the American Slav Congress. What other organizations does the Communist Party control in your area?

Mr. CVETIC. The front organizations that the Communist Party actually has control of in the Pittsburgh area are the following: The Labor Press Committee; the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born; the International Workers Order; Civil Rights Congress; Progressive Party in Pittsburgh; Croatian Council; Serb Vidovdan Council; and Language Press, 1916 East Street, Pittsburgh.

In addition, there are organizations where we have some influence.

Mr. TAVENNER. You mentioned the Creation Council. Is that the full name of that organization?

Mr. CVETIC. No. It is the National Council of Americans of Croatian Descent.

Mr. TAVENNER. Could you list for us also organizations which the Communist Party at one time controlled, but which have since been dissolved or abandoned?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, two: American Committee for Yugoslav Relief and the United Committee of South Slavic Americans, and I have been active in both, through the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. In other words, the Communist Party controlled them through the means you have mentioned?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you a member of the Labor Press Committee?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. What were the functions of the Labor Press Committee?

Mr. CVETIC. The Labor Press Committee in Western Pennsylvania was a front committee set up by the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania for the specific purpose of organizing affairs such as picnics, raffles, and other money-raising activities for the Communist Party and for the Sunday and Daily

Worker.

Mr. TAVENNER. They worked actively in obtaining subscribers for the Daily and Sunday Worker?

Mr. CVETIC. Our activity was to raise money for the Sunday and Daily Worker. We were a money-raising group.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you give us some idea of the financial assistance the Labor Press Committee gave the Daily Worker or Sunday Worker through the activity of that Committee?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. We were instrumental several times in raising \$8,000 or \$10,000 in Western Pennsylvania for the Daily and Sunday Worker through raffles and picnics and so forth. We set up this Committee in the Communist Party office, with Communist Party members as members of the Committee.

Mr. TAVENNER. This \$8,000 or \$10,000 you raised was raised over what period of time?

Mr. CVETIC. A one-year period. One year we raised around \$8,000 or \$10,000. Another year we raised around \$7,000. Last year we raised \$3,000 or \$4,000. I would say in about five years we raised between \$25,000 and \$30,000 through this Committee.

Mr. TAVENNER. How was it distributed?

Mr. CVETIC. It was prorated. Some went to the national office, some to the district office, and some to the Daily and Sunday Worker.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you hold an office on this Committee?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. In the past five years I have served

as chairman and as secretary of this Committee.

(Mr. Wood leaves and Mr. McSweeney presides.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you give us the names of other known Communist Party members who have served on the Labor Press Committee, to your knowledge?

Mr. CVETIC. Mike Hanusiak; Ben Careathers; Pat Cush; Tom Fitzpatrick.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who is Tom Fitzpatrick?

Mr. CVETIC. He is a member of the United Electrical Workers in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was he at one time president of District 6 of the UE?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, that is the same Tom Fitzpatrick.

Mr. TAVENNER. The same man?

Mr. CVETIC. The same man.

Mr. TAVENNER. How do you know these persons were members of the Communist Party, including Tom Fitzpatrick?

Mr. CVETIC. I have attended Communist Party meetings with these individuals many times, and when I say Communist Party meetings I am not talking about mass rallies where you would see sometimes Communist Party sympathizers; I am talking about meetings called only for Communist Party members, either District Committee meetings, meetings of top functionaries, meetings of the Finance Committee of the Communist Party, and so on.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did Tom Fitzpatrick attend any meetings of

the type you have described?

Mr. CVETIC. Tom Fitzpatrick at one time was a member of the District Committee of the Communist Party, and I have seen him at many District Committee meetings.

Mr. TAVENNER. During what period of time? Can you be more specific about the period of time?

Mr. CVETIC. I would say during the last six years at various times I have attended Communist Party meetings with Tom Fitzpatrick. Tom Fitzpatrick often made reports on the activities of the Communist Party members in UE, and reported the progress they were making.

Mr. TAVENNER. He made reports of that kind at meetings you attended?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were his reports encouraging as to the advancement of Communism in the UE?

Mr. CVETIC. I guess at times they were encouraging. Irrespective of how encouraging the reports were, the Communist Party conclusions at every District Committee meeting always lined out more work for the members, irrespective of whether the reports were encouraging or discouraging. Sometimes they were a criticism of the report.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, the Tom Fitzpatrick just mentioned by Mr. Cvetic was a witness before this committee on August 10, 1949, at which time he refused to answer questions

regarding his affiliations with the Communist Party, which you will probably recall.

Mr. Cvetic, you mentioned Pat Cush. Tell us something about him. Is he a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. He is one of the oldest members of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania, and at present is principally used as a fronter more than anything else. He is not active at the present time.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is his full name Emmett Patrick Cush?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who is Ben Careathers?

Mr. CVETIC. Ben Careathers heads the Negro Commission of the Communist Party in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is his occupation, do you know?

Mr. CVETIC. Formerly he operated a store in the Hill District in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. What kind of store was it?

Mr. CVETIC. A confectionery store, and he also sold Communist Party books and literature there. I do know this, he was partially subsidized in his work as head of the Negro Commission. I don't know to what extent.

Mr. TAVENNER. By subsidized you mean he was paid something for the effort he was putting in for the advancement of Communism?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. You spoke about the American Committee for

Protection of Foreign Born as being one of those organizations controlled by the Communist Party. Were you ever a member of that organization?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I was, and still am a member of the National Board, so elected at the last two conferences.

Mr. TAVENNER. You are a member of the National Board of that organization?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was the function of this Committee?

Mr. CVETIC. This Committee, for the most part, carried on legal defense for Communist Party members who were arrested for deportation. When I say for Communist Party members, at a meeting Abner Green once told me that 66 of the 67 persons arrested for deportation up to that time were Communist Party members. He told me that in a little coffee clutch. And the other person, whom they did not defend, had some reason other than political why he was being deported, and the Committee did not interest themselves in his welfare.

Mr. TAVENNER. So that this organization, known as the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, actually meant for the protection of foreign born Communists?

Mr. CVETIC. I would say so. All the pamphlets and bulletins of theirs which I secured, and which I turned over to the FBI, were defending some Communist. They were not interested in a foreign born unless he was a Communist. If you were a Communist

and arrested for deportation, they immediately went to your defense and raised funds for you.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you recall any instance in which this American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born protected any foreign born person who was not a Communist, or endeavored to protect him?

Mr. CVETIC. I recall of no such instance. We raised a lot of money for Gerhart Eisler; we raised money for George Pirinsky; and recently we raised money for Frank Borich. I don't know what the status of his case is.

Mr. TAVENNER. Tell us about your experience in raising money for that organization?

Mr. CVETIC. Money for that organization was usually raised by mass rallies, selling booklets and pamphlets, and so on. We would hold agitational meetings, and at these meetings we would stress the importance of the attack on the foreign born, and that the immigration authorities are trying to deport all the foreign born, and we would be able to raise some money out of the people who attended the meetings.

I would like to add this, because I think it is important. I mentioned I attended many conferences and meetings of this Committee. Another purpose that it served was as an agitational body. We distributed leaflets and booklets, most of which attacked the immigration authorities, FBI, House Un-American Activities Committee, and so on.

Mr. TAVENNER. So it was the same old Party line brought down through Communist sources and channels to this organization known as the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you identify for the committee other members of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born known to you to be members of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Recently we have set up an American Yugoslav Defense Committee. This is a subcommittee of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born. I was made chairman of this new Committee, Mary Borich was made secretary, and Mane Susanjar was made treasurer.

Mr. TAVENNER. You say that is a new organization?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. We just organized it about three months ago.

Mr. TAVENNER. How is it getting along?

Mr. CVETIC. I don't know. We raised about \$250 up until the day I left Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. Proceed with the purposes and functions of that new organization.

Mr. CVETIC. The main purpose of this particular organization was to defend Communist Party members of Yugoslav descent being held for deportation. At the most recent meeting of the Committee we considered transferring the center of this Committee

to New York City, because we felt they could build it more rapidly.

Mr. TAVENNER. You testified that you are a member of the National Board of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you name other members of the National Board of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born?

Mr. CVETIC. Well, I know Abner Green, the executive secretary, very well, as a member of the Communist Party. As a matter of fact, on one occasion he sent me a letter, which I submitted to the FBI, asking me to arrange a meeting with Steve Nelson for him. Abner Green did attend meetings of the Communist Party.

I know M. Y. Steinberg of Pittsburgh, chairman of the panel on legal defense, to be a member of the Communist Party, because I have attended Communist Party meetings with Mr. Steinberg in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. When were you elected to the National Board of this organization?

Mr. CVETIC. I was elected at the last two conferences. The most recent was in December 1949. It was held in Detroit.

Mr. TAVENNER. You mentioned the International Workers Order as another one of these organizations that was under the control of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you a member of that organization?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you hold any position or office in it?

Mr. CVETIC. No, I didn't.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were there known Communist Party members in that organization, that is, known to you to be members of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. I would rather answer by saying who were the known Communist Party organizers in the Pittsburgh area who held office in the organization: Nick Baltich; Mike Hanusiak; Helen Vrabel, she is now in New York; Steve Mirokovich; and John Zuskar.

Mr. TAVENNER. They were Communist Party members?

Mr. CVETIC. All of those I mentioned, yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Does the International Workers Order give insurance benefits to its members?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Tell us the functions of that organization.

Mr. CVETIC. Well, it is an insurance organization built on a fraternal base. As I say, all the organizers I ever met are Communist Party members. Some of the meetings I attended, after the business of collecting dues and so on was through, the organizer, if he was in the district, would meet with the members, and the meeting would not be adjourned, and talk on

some topic that the Communist Party wanted taken into that particular branch of the IWO.

Mr. TAVENNER. What attitude did the Communist Party take towards having its members join that organization?

Mr. CVETIC. While it was not a prerequisite, they expected you to become a member and become active in the IWO.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you acquainted with the national organizers of that organization?

Mr. CVETIC. I met some of the officers and organizers, and, again, every one I met were Communist Party members. I mentioned Leo Bacich. I will mention now for the first time John Middleton. And in previous testimony I mentioned some officers and national organizers of the IWO.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know anything about funds of this organization that have been built up as a reserve in its insurance fund?

Mr. CVETIC. In what way do you mean?

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know the amount?

Mr. CVETIC. Around 26 million dollars. I don't know the exact amount. I know they have quite a big reserve.

Mr. TAVENNER. Has that organization aided in a financial way any of the operations of the Communist Party, to your knowledge?

Mr. CVETIC. One way that they do help is by taking large space ads in the Communist Party controlled newspapers. Another

way is, when there are publications for any conventions or conferences they take large ads in those publications.

Once when I was ready to go to New York to attend a meeting of the Nationality Commission, I met with Steve Nelson in Pittsburgh the day before I left, and he said to me: "When you get to New York get hold of Sam Milgrom and ask him if he can let you have a thousand dollars, that we need it down here."

When I got to New York I mentioned it to Sam Milgrom, who is an officer of the IWO, and he said he would take it up, but he didn't give me the money. Whether the money got to Pittsburgh or not, I don't know.

Mr. TAVENNER. What position did Sam Milgrom hold in the IWO?

Mr. CVETIC. I don't know his exact position, but he worked in the offices of the IWO in New York.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is he a Communist Party member?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I attended Communist Party meetings with Sam Milgrom.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, information is in the files of this committee that the Sam Milgrom just mentioned by Mr. Cvetic was arrested in June 1932 on a warrant issued by the Secretary of Labor. A warrant of deportation was issued, as amended, on August 29, 1935, to provide for the deportation of this individual to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has never authorized the return of this individual, and he remains

in this country as a registered alien.

Mr. Chairman, we are at a point now of going into the Civil Rights Congress. It would probably be a mistake to break in the middle of it. There is one thing I would like to ask the witness, in any event.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Very well.

Mr. TAVENNER. You spoke of the Civil Rights Congress as being another one of the organizations over which the Communist Party exercised control. Were you a member of it?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you ever hold office in it?

Mr. CVETIC. I was a member of the Civil Rights Congress in Pittsburgh and a member of the Executive Committee there. As a matter of fact, I helped organize the Civil Rights Congress there. This Civil Rights Congress in Pittsburgh was set up after three or four preliminary meetings called by the district organizer of the Communist Party. These meetings were held in Hyman Schlessinger's office.

Mr. TAVENNER. At those meetings, were plans made for the organization of the Civil Rights Congress?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. Could you identify for us the present officers of the Civil Rights Congress in the Pittsburgh area who are known to you as members of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Milo Mamula is the secretary in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is he a lawyer?

Mr. CVETIC. No. He runs a travel agency. One of the former secretaries was Theresa Turner, the wife of Andy Onda. She is a Communist Party member and he is also a Communist Party member, responsible for steel concentration work in Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. TAVENNER. I will ask you more about the steel concentration work later. What is the position held by Andy Onda?

Mr. CVETIC. He is in charge of steel concentration in Western Pennsylvania for the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you named all the officers of the Civil Rights Congress in the Pittsburgh area at this time who are known to you to be members of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. No. Miriam Schultz served as secretary at one time. And Tom Quinn was a member of the Executive Committee and served as chairman of this Committee. M. Y. Steinberg; and Ben Careathers, were also members. The Civil Rights Congress in Pittsburgh has about the same participants as the Labor Press Committee. It functions with about a half dozen assigned Communist Party members. I didn't mention myself. I was a member of this Committee too.

Mr. McSWEENEY: I want to ask one question interesting to me as an old school teacher. You said you held a meeting in the Fifth Avenue School. Was it announced as a Communist Party meeting?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. McSWEENEY. And the Board of Education permitted it?

Mr. CVETIC. Oh, yes. It was advertised as a Communist Party meeting.

Mr. McSWEENEY. That is a rather unusual departure.

Mr. CVETIC. We hold Communist Party meetings in Pittsburgh, that is, mass rallies, at the Fifth Avenue School and at the A. Leo Wehl school, and in the North Side Carnegie Librarie.

Mr. McSWEENEY. Did you do it in other cities that you recall?

Mr. CVETIC. I was on most of the arrangements in Western Pennsylvania. Our District Committee met many times in the lecture room of the North Side Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh. Another place we met was the Knights of Pythias Hall, North Side.

One of the last meetings I attended, which was actually a meeting of the top Communist functionaries to discuss the Sunday and Daily Worker was in the Fort Pitt Hotel, but that was advertised as a Labor Committee meeting. I was the doorman and my instructions were not to let anybody in but Communist Party members.

Mr. McSWEENEY. That is carrying democracy pretty far to permit the holding of Communist Party meetings in the schools.

Mr. TAVENNER. In your earlier testimony you referred to Israel Amter. The committee files, while they contain many

references to Communist participations on his part, contain no reference to participations by him since the middle of 1948. The reason for this was understood by the staff to be because of his death, but there is no official record in our files of his death. Do you know, or is it your understanding, that he is now living or is he deceased?

Mr. CVETIC. I will have to answer that I have no absolute knowledge or proof that he is either living or dead. I haven't had contact with him since the meeting of the IWO in New York, and I do not have knowledge that he is deceased.

Mr. McSWEEENEY: The committee will recess until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

(Thereupon, at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 1950, a recess was taken until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 22, 1950.)

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTY-FIRST CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

Date February 22, 1950

ALTHEA ARGENEAUX
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Official Reporter
Telephone: Wisconsin 5024

I N D E X

PUBLIC HEARING

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Witness

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Wednesday, February 22, 1950

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Washington, D. C.

PUBLIC HEARING

Morning Session

The subcommittee met, pursuant to adjournment, at 10:00 a.m. in room 226, Old House Office Building, Washington, D. C., Hon. Francis E. Walter presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives John S. Wood (arriving as indicated), Francis E. Walter, John McSweeney, and Bernard W. Kearney (arriving as indicated).

Staff members present: Frank S. Tavenner, Jr., counsel; Louis J. Russell, senior investigator; Donald T. Appell, William A. Wheeler, and Courtney Owens, investigators; John W. Carrington, clerk; Benjamin Mandel, director of research; and A. S. Poore, editor.

Mr. WALTER. The committee will come to order.

Mr. Cvetic has been sworn. You may proceed.

TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW CVETIC (Resumed)

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, we were talking yesterday about the American Committee for Protection of the Foreign Born. We have a letterhead here bearing date December 11, 1948, which

gives the names of the chairman and certain officers and sponsors, but it does not give the names of the directors of that organization. Will you look at it?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. You testified yesterday about the names of some of the directors?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. And those persons named by you were members of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know why the names of the directors were left off the letterhead?

Mr. CVETIC. I couldn't give any reason why, because after this conference a letter was sent out by the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born listing the elected board members.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, are you a member of the Progressive Party in Pennsylvania?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I am.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have listed the organizations in Western Pennsylvania which you claimed were under the control of the Communist Party, and among them you listed the Progressive Party?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you explain the influence that the Communist Party has in the Progressive Party in Western

Pennsylvania?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I will be glad to do that. I will speak for Western Pennsylvania where I was a member of the committee of the Progressive Party.

In Western Pennsylvania the Communist Party has functioning what is known as a Political Commission, which is responsible for carrying the Communist Party line into the Progressive Party. This Commission's function is the same as the Nationality Commission or the Negro Commission. In other words, member of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania who have been assigned to work in the Progressive Party meet regularly to discuss the policies and the line that is to be taken into the Progressive Party.

At one time--and this was prior to the 1948 elections--Dave Grant, Communist Party organizer in Western Pennsylvania, and who is now organizing for the Communist Party in the United Electrical Workers' cell of the Communist Party--I want to point out he is not an organizer for the United Electrical Workers, but for the Communist Party in the United Electrical Workers' cell of the Communist Party--headed this Political Commission. I know that because I met with him regularly to discuss policy. At the present time the Commission is headed by Steve Nelson, who is the district organizer of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. TAVENNER. You stated there was a Political Commission

that endeavored to determine the policy of the Progressive Party?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. At the inception of the organization of the Progressive Party, what part did the Communist Party play?

Mr. CVETIC. The first knowledge I had that we were going to try to organize a new party in the United States was back in 1946, the fall or winter of 1946. William Z. Foster came to Pittsburgh and addressed a mass meeting called by the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania.

At this time the United States was demobilized after the war, and the two highlights of William Z. Foster's speech were, he started attacking the war-makers in the United States, and made statements to the effect, "they will never beat down the Soviet Union and so on so they might as well forget about it."

(Mr. Kearney arrives.)

Mr. WALTER. Will you fix the date?

Mr. CVETIC. In the fall or winter of 1946. It was the year before we organized the Presidential campaigns for 1948. It could have been in November or December.

The second high point of William Z. Foster's speech was, he stressed the importance of building a new people's party in the United States, and said that the Communist Party should work with an aim to becoming a part of this new people's party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Then this Political Commission of the Communist

Party was formed?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who were the members of that Political Commission?

Mr. CVETIC. I mentioned Dave Grant and Steve Nelson, who headed this Commission at one time. In addition to them, Alex Wright, who is now director of the Progressive Party in Pittsburgh, was head of this Commission. George Wuchinich was a member of this Commission. Mila Mamula was a member of this Commission. M. Y. Steinberg was also a member of this Commission. Pearl Griffin, who is working now as secretary in the Progressive Party office in Pittsburgh, was a member of this Commission. These are some of the members.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did the members of that Political Commission receive instructions from any source as to their connection with the Progressive Party?

Mr. CVETIC. At meetings of the District Committee of the Communist Party, the Progressive Party, once it was organized, was always on the agenda, and blanket instructions were issued to all Communist Party members to join the Progressive Party. Then when the Progressive Party was organized, the line was at that time and is still at the present time, that the Progressive Party is one of our big concentration points.

Take, for example, in Western Pennsylvania today, at the most recent functionary meeting of the Communist Party instruc-

tions were issued to everybody to register as members of the Progressive Party. I don't know how successful they have been. I know I didn't take time to register, but I know some Communist Party members did register as a result of those instructions.

Mr. WALTER. Would you say the Communists in the area with which you are acquainted are all members of the Progressive Party?

Mr. CVETIC. We only started registering this year because we were not a party on the ballot before, but I would say yes, they are all members of the Progressive Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know the approximate membership of the Progressive Party in Western Pennsylvania?

Mr. CVETIC. At the last election we voted four thousand votes. I would say that this would represent about the Progressive Party strength in Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is the approximate membership of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania, if you know?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I know. At the last report given by the district secretary of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania, his figures--and these are his figures--were approximately 550 members.

Mr. WALTER. Is a list kept of the membership in the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. I testified yesterday that since 1948 all lists and records were ordered destroyed by the Communist Party

for security reasons.

Mr. WALTER. Were they actually destroyed?

Mr. CVETIC. Membership cards were ordered destroyed. Office records were destroyed. The club secretaries of the Communist Party were ordered not to keep any written records.

For example, this year when we registered a membership we didn't use any names, just numbers. When I registered the members in my club, instead of saying, for example, that I am a member, and use my name Matthew Cvetic, I would use No. 1 and give my occupation, age, and so on. No Party cards were issued.

Mr. WALTER. Where were the records destroyed?

Mr. CVETIC. My own records I turned over to the FBI. In the Communist Party office I presume some were burned, but I had no part in destroying these records or anything.

Mr. WALTER. You didn't witness their destruction?

Mr. CVETIC. I did not.

Mr. TAVENNER. You stated you turned your records over to the FBI?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you on pay by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for your services in your undercover work?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I was a paid undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. TAVENNER. What officers of the Progressive Party in Western Pennsylvania are members of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Well, I mentioned Alex Wright and Pearl Griffin, who are now the officers there. Some of the other members of the Progressive Party who are Communist Party members and active on the Commission are: Nick Lazaris, who is an organizer for the Hotel and Restaurant Workers; I also mentioned Milo Mamula and George Wuchinich before.

Mr. WALTER. Who conducted the registration of the Party members?

Mr. CVETIC. That is always in the hands of the district secretary. He issues the instructions. At the present time, the instructions go to the section secretaries of the sections.

Mr. WALTER. Who is the district secretary?

Mr. CVETIC. William Albertson.

Mr. WALTER. And do you know the names of the section secretaries?

Mr. CVETIC. Not all of them. The section I belong to, John Vidmar was the section secretary. He would get the instructions from William Albertson. Then Vidmar would call a meeting of the section committee. I was a member of the section committee by virtue of the fact I was organizer for one of the sections.

Mr. WALTER. Have you given us the names of the section committee?

Mr. CVETIC. I gave the names, but not as the section committee. I can go into that if you wish me to.

Mr. WALTER. Yes. What I am trying to develop is the exact organization.

Mr. CVETIC. In the section of which I was a member, there was John Vidmar. He was the secretary. Joe Mankin was the chairman of the section, or the organizer.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you spell that name, please?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. M-a-n-k-i-n. In addition to being the organizer for this section, he was also assigned to operate the cell of the Communist Party in the Hotel and Restaurant Workers.

Then there was Jack Sartisky. He was the head of the UE cell, the United Electrical Workers cell, of the Communist Party in the North Side. He was a member of the section committee.

Then there was Daisy Lolich Bartl. She was a member. And Hamp Golden, who was in charge of the cell of the Communist Party in the Heinz Company plant, was a member of the section committee.

The other member was Arthur Bartl, and he was in charge of the cell of the Communist Party at the Croatian Press at 1916 East Street. This was the section committee.

Mr. KEARNEY. Are they all members now?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I attended meetings with them as late as last October or November.

Mr. WALTER. I notice in the names you mention there are a large number of foreign names. Do you know whether or not

all those people are American citizens?

Mr. CVETIC. I testified yesterday some were not. Some were cited for deportation in the past. Counsel here did develop that.

Mr. WALTER. Excuse me.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, did you attend any meetings of the Progressive Committee within the Communist Party at which policy was discussed?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I sat in many policy-making meetings in the Communist Party where policy in the Progressive Party was discussed. I mentioned before that at every functionary or District Committee meeting in 1948, the Progressive Party was discussed, and the Progressive Party was one of the main things on the agenda of Communist Party meetings.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you also have conferences with members of the Progressive Party, regardless of whether or not they may have been Communists, on political matters?

Mr. CVETIC. You mean did I ever meet with any of them on policy?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes.

Mr. CVETIC. On a national basis?

Mr. TAVENNER. In Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. CVETIC. In Western Pennsylvania the Progressive Party was not one of my main responsibilities. I was just expected to participate as a member and try to organize Progressive Party

activity in Lawrenceville, where I was supposed to have lived.

Mr. TAVLNNER. Did you at any time have occasion to meet with any members of the Progressive Party on a national level?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I did, and I would like to tell the committee here about a meeting I attended in 1947. This was on November 11, 1947. I met with Beany Baldwin, who was chairing the campaign for the Progressive Party; with Henry Wallace, the Progressive Party Presidential candidate; and with George Wuchinich, to discuss the potential of Slav vote in Western Pennsylvania.

(Mr. Wood arrives.)

Mr. CVETIC. (Continuing) This meeting was held in Henry Wallace's room at the Schenley Hotel in Pittsburgh the day after Henry Wallace spoke at a mass rally in Pittsburgh.

At this meeting Mr. Wallace and Mr. Baldwin questioned George Wuchinich and myself at length for the purpose of ascertaining the number of Slav votes that we felt we could deliver for a Presidential candidate in our capacity as officers of the American Slav Congress.

I want to point out that at this time when we met with Henry Wallace, both Mr. Wuchinich and myself were known Communist Party leaders in Pittsburgh.

Mr. WALTER. Did you tell Mr. Wallace you were Communist Party members?

Mr. CVETIC. The question was not raised, but we were in a big exposé in the Pittsburgh press, and both George Wuchinich

and myself were known Communist Party leaders in Pittsburgh.

Mr. WALTER. You are assuming Mr. Wallace and Mr. Baldwin knew of your Communist Party activities?

Mr. CVETIC. I am assuming they were men of intelligence. The local Progressive Party leaders knew we were Communist Party members.

Mr. WALTER. Who were they?

Mr. CVETIC. At that time, Mr. Ficher, F-i-c-h-e-r, his first name skips me for the moment, was the organizer, and Virginia Seymour also made arrangements for the Progressive Party.

Mr. WALTER. And they were well-known Communists?

Mr. CVETIC. No, not those two. Wuchinich and I were. However, Mr. Ficher and Virginia Seymour met with Dave Grant and myself on numerous occasions to discuss policy.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have previously testified that Wuchinich was a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. And the two of you were serving, at the time of this conference, in your capacity as officials of the American Slav Congress. Can you identify for the committee any other individuals known to you to be members of the Communist Party who were active in Progressive Party circles in Western Pennsylvania at that time?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. Jack Sartisky, who is the UE organizer

for the Communist Party in Pittsburgh, was quite active in the Progressive Party in that campaign.

Mr. TAVENNER. How do you spell it?

Mr. CVETIC. S-a-r-t-i-s-k-y. And George Nichols, N-i-c-h-o-l-s, who is the hiring agent for the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union in Pittsburgh, was quite active. Then the people from the Language Press with whom I had worked were also active in the Progressive Party. I have mentioned all their names before, and I don't know if I should repeat them here.

Mr. TAVENNER. No. You mentioned in your earlier testimony that the Croatian Council was one of those groups which was controlled by the Communist Party, did you not?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I did.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you a member of the Croatian Council?

Mr. CVETIC. No, I was not. I am of Slovene descent and I was a member of the Slovenian Council. However, I have, in Nationality Commission meetings, met with Croatian Council members.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you identify known Communist Party members who are officers of or exercise control over the Croatian Council?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. The Council is broken down into two councils, the National Council of Americans of Croatian Descent, and in addition there is the Federation of American Croatian Women. The persons who control those organizations out of Pittsburgh are: Frank Borich, secretary of the National Council

of Americans of Croatian Descent. The person responsible for the other council I mentioned is Anna Devunich.

Frank Borich was arrested recently on deportation proceedings, because he is not a citizen, and just before I left Pittsburgh we were trying to raise funds to defend Frank Borich.

Mr. TAVENNER. The Servian Council was another group you testified earlier was under the control of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. The full name is Serbian Vidovdan Congress. That is controlled by the Communist Nationality Commission.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you identify known Communist Party members who are officers of or exercise control over the Serbian Vidovdan Congress?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. The members of the Nationality Commission are also members of the Serbian Vidovdan Congress.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you given their names?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, Nick Baltich, Mane Susnjar, Charles Vuick, and Daisy Lolich Bartl.

The meetings and planning for this particular counsel were held at 1916 East Street.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is the significance of that location?

Mr. CVETIC. That is the office of the Language Press in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. The Language Press in Pittsburgh was also claimed by you to be one of those groups which was under the

control of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell us how that organization functions?

Mr. CVETIC. You mean the Language Press?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes.

Mr. CVETIC. The Language Press is a term used to designate the office, the editorial staff, and the printing company of the Communist-controlled newspapers at 1916 East Street. The entire editorial staff of these newspapers are members of the Communist Party and members of the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party. I testified yesterday that the policy of these newspapers is discussed and decided at Nationality Commission meetings of the Communist Party, which, at the present time, are called by Steve Nelson, the district organizer.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is the position of Arnold Johnson with regard to that Nationality Commission?

Mr. CVETIC. Steve Nelson is the local Nationality Commission head. Arnold Johnson is the national head and calls meetings with regard to a national Party change.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are the editors of these publications members of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, all the editors of these publications are members of the Communist Party, every one of them, and I am talking about the editorial staff. This has nothing to do with

the print shop. While there are one or two members of the Communist Party in the print shop, to become a member of the editorial staff you are assigned there by the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have spoken of Leo Fisher several times in connection with the Language Press. What is his function?

Mr. CVETIC. He is the manager of the American Progressive Printing Company at 1916 East Street. This company which is located there prints the newspapers and also does job printing.

Mr. TAVENNER. We have covered all of these various organizations you listed as being under the control of the Communist Party. Before proceeding to another subject, have you identified the various papers which are published by this Language Press, and if you have not, will you do so now?

Mr. CVETIC. I will identify them now. The newspapers of this Language Press, combined, are: Narodni Glasnik; Narodny Noviny; and Slobodna Rec. In the order that I listed these, the first is the Croatian language press; the second is the Slovak language press; and the third is the Serbian press.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know whether the name of the second paper that you mentioned, Narodny Noviny, has been changed to Ludovy, L-u-d-o-v-y?

Mr. CVETIC. Originally this paper was called Ludovy Dennik, then it was changed to Ludovy Novine, spelled N-o-v-i-n-e or N-o-v-i-n-y.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you give us the spelling of those names over again?

Mr. CVETIC. The first is N-a-r-o-d-n-i G-l-a-s-n-i-k.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is two words?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Spell the first word.

Mr. CVETIC. N-a-r-o-d-n-i.

Mr. TAVENNER. Now spell the second word.

Mr. CVETIC. G-l-a-s-n-i-k.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is what press?

Mr. CVETIC. Croatian press.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is the next?

Mr. CVETIC. L-u-d-o-v-y.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is one word?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, and the second word is N-o-v-i-n-e or N-o-v-i-n-e-y.

Mr. TAVENNER. What nationality is that publication?

Mr. CVETIC. Slovak.

Mr. TAVENNER. And the third?

Mr. CVETIC. S-l-o-b-o-d-n-a, that is one word, and the second word is R-e-c, and that is the Serbian press.

In addition to these newspapers they also publish an annual calendar, that is, each of these newspapers publishes an annual calendar or almanac, and this also carries the Communist Party line.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, the committee is desirous of knowing the extent to which the Communist Party has infiltrated the basic industries of our country. Realizing that Pittsburgh is a nerve center of our industrial production area, can you tell us what degree of success the Communist Party has met in Pittsburgh, and identify for us individuals who are prominent in the Communist movement within the basic industries in the Pittsburgh area?

(Mr. Wood leaves.)

Mr. CVETIC. The National Board of the Communist Party, at its 1945 convention, established Western Pennsylvania as a steel concentration area.

At this convention Western Pennsylvania was set up as one of the main concentration areas for Communist Party activity and infiltration of the steel plants in that area.

To carry out and facilitate the work of Communist Party members in Western Pennsylvania, the Communist Party set up a Steel Commission within the framework of the Communist Party, which met regularly to discuss the policy, the program, and the line of the Communist Party which was to be carried into the steel mills in that area.

After the 1945 national convention of the Communist Party, this Commission was headed by Roy Hudson, who was assigned as the district organizer in Western Pennsylvania. It met regularly, either in the office of the Communist Party in the

Bakewell Building, or on the third floor of 440 Wood Street at that time.

The key concentration areas at this time--and the way I ascertained these key concentration areas was through reports which were made at District Committee meetings in Western Pennsylvania--the key concentration points in 1945 after the national convention of that year were: Homestead; Braddock; Duquesne; McKeesport, and surrounding communities; the Crucible Steel Company in Lawrenceville; and the J. & L. plants in South Side and Hazelwood.

Mr. TAVENNER. By J. & L. do you mean Jones and Laughlin?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. The plants in Homestead, Braddock, McKeesport and Duquesne are plants of the United States Steel Company.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was similar work done in other points in the United States, of which this is a sample?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I know we have had quite a concentration in Gary and other cities, but Western Pennsylvania was picked out in the United States as the concentration area.

Mr. TAVENNER. And the program followed there, with which you are familiar, was the general program adopted by the Communist Party in such matters?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right. That was hammered out at the national convention of the Communist Party in 1945.

Mr. TAVENNER. Proceed.

Mr. CVETIC. In August 1948 the district office of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania, through its organizer Roy Hudson, called a meeting of the District Committee of the Communist Party. This meeting, which I attended as a leading functionary of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania, was held in the lecture room of the North Side Carnegie Library. It was attended by approximately 110 members of the Communist Party who were either elected members of the District Committee or leading Party functionaries. Functionaries could be members of the Nationality Commission, members of the Steel Commission, or any one of the Commissions that functioned.

Mr. KEARNEY. Was that meeting open to the public?

Mr. CVETIC. No. It was a closed meeting.

Mr. KEARNEY. Did the authorities know it would be a Communist Party meeting?

Mr. CVETIC. I would say yes, because objections were raised at various times with Mr. Diebel, who is in charge of the library, objections raised by patriotic Americans, but he said as long as he was there if they wanted to use it for meetings they could do so.

Mr. KEARNEY. He is not a member of the Communist Party, is he?

Mr. CVETIC. Not to my knowledge. I have never seen him at any meetings.

At this meeting I was speaking of, Henry Winston, a member

of the National Board of the Communist Party, made the main report on the second day of this two-day conference.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was he a resident of Western Pennsylvania, or was he brought in for this occasion?

Mr. CVETIC. He was brought in for this occasion.

Mr. TAVENNER. From where?

Mr. CVETIC. New York.

Mr. TAVENNER. Proceed.

Mr. CVETIC. In this report, Henry Winston stressed the importance of Western Pennsylvania as a strategic and focal point in our struggle to bring Socialism to the United States, because the basic industries are located in Pittsburgh.

Mr. WALTER. Did you hear anyone, at any of those meetings, advocate the overthrow of the Government by force and violence?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I will give quotes as we go along. I want to give direct quotations.

At this meeting Henry Winston stated: "The National Board recognizes the importance of Western Pennsylvania because the basic industries are located here--steel, mining, and electrical. If we want to bring Socialism to the United States we must first build the Party in these basic industries. The National Board considers this area so important in the national struggle that it is sending one of its best organizers here, Steve Nelson, to replace Roy Hudson. The National Board also is sending Steve Nelson here because United States Steel is located here,

and we must build the Party in United States Steel and other steel plants in Western Pennsylvania. We must carry the program of the Communist Party to the workers in the steel mills, in the mines, and in the shops."

Then he closed by asking the members present at this meeting to accept Steve Nelson as their new organizer.

Roy Hudson spoke up and accepted the decisions of the National Board. The District Committee then voted unanimously to accept the decisions of the National Board.

Henry Winston next presented Andy Onda and stated: "The National Board is sending Andy Onda to Western Pennsylvania for the purpose of working with Steve Nelson in the steel concentration area."

The meeting accepted this recommendation of the National Board, and Andy Onda was made the steel organizer for the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania, in conformity with the decisions of the National Board of the Communist Party.

Both Steve Nelson and Andy Onda are at the present time functioning in these capacities.

At this meeting Jim Dolsen, who is the Daily Worker representative and correspondent in Western Pennsylvania, stated to me--and he stated it to me personally; he is one of the leaders of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania and a long-time member: "I don't see how we can have a successful revolution in this country without getting control of the

basic industries."

After this conference the following people were assigned to the steel concentration area. I might add here that these assignments were made on the basis of a decision of the District Board of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania to select at least one member from each branch in Western Pennsylvania to work in the steel concentration area, and this area, as outlined at Communist Party meetings subsequent to the one I have just described, was the area in which the United States Steel Company mills are located, or the Homestead-Duquesne-Braddock area.

These are some of the people who were assigned to and are working at the present time in this area?

Eleanor Sackter; Bessie Steinberg; Alex Steinberg; and up until about two months ago Bill Gordon, who was brought in from New York to work in the steel concentration area. About two months ago he was moved to the North Side to work as section organizer, replacing John Vidmar.

These organizers were directly under the charge of Andy Onda to work in the steel concentration area.

Mr. TAVENNER. In any of the meetings which you attended within the Communist Party framework, were ways and means discussed relative to the slowing-up or shutting-down of steel operations under any conditions?

Mr. CVETIC. I would rather answer that question a little

later.

Mr. TAVENNER. Very well. After these assignments were made, did you learn of the measure of success or failure that resulted from their work?

Mr. CVETIC. I have talked to many of the members from this area, and the organizers who were assigned to work out there, and according to them, while they have been able to get additional subscriptions to the Daily and Sunday Worker, and have been able to distribute quite a bit of literature, their efforts in recruiting members have not been too successful.

The report I heard made by William Albertson, district secretary of the Communist Party, was that in the eighteen months since Steve Nelson and Andy Onda came to Pittsburgh, not more than 25 people were recruited into the Communist Party in this strategic steel area. The best I have been able to ascertain, they have suffered some loss in that area. We had about 800 members in 1948, and now we have only 550 members in Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. TAVENNER. When you spoke of 25 members you meant 25 new members?

Mr. CVETIC. 25 new Communist Party members.

I would like to add a few more comments of Communist Party members to show how important they regard Western Pennsylvania.

Bill Gordon, one of the steel organizers sent to Pittsburgh by the National Board, stated to me about three months ago:

"If we can move Pittsburgh an inch, we can move the country a mile."

Sometimes people are of the impression that a large Communist Party membership is necessary for the Party to gain control of a mill or plant. At the Crucible Steel Company the Communist Party, with eight or ten members, was able to gain control of a union of 2800 members in two years. The Communist Party likes to get its members in controlling jobs, such as stewards and so on, and in that way control the union.

Last year in New York City, while I was having dinner with Hyman Schlessinger, George Wuchinich, and Milo Mamula, Hyman Schlessinger made the following statement: "While we have a strong Communist Party in New York City, I don't see how we can wage a successful revolution unless we build the Party in Pittsburgh. It stands to reason that we must get control of the basic industries and the industrial workers before we can even think of a revolution."

Hyman Schlessinger is an attorney in Pittsburgh and a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. I believe you have testified that you were the organizer of the Communist cell in the Crucible Steel Company at Lawrenceville?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I helped build it.

Mr. TAVENNER. What year was that?

Mr. CVETIC. 1945 and 1946, a little over a year.

Mr. TAVENNER. The organizational work was being done in that field as early as 1945?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, since the national convention of the Communist Party in 1945.

(Mr. McSweeney leaves.)

Mr. TAVENNER. How successful were you in your efforts in the organization of the Communist cell in Crucible Steel Company?

Mr. CVETIC. We were able to recruit up to 22 members in the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was that considered satisfactory progress?

Mr. CVETIC. That was considered a pretty good cell. 22 members in a steel plant was considered a very good cell.

Mr. TAVENNER. I understood you to say a while ago that with that number or less you were able to take over a union of 2800?

Mr. CVETIC. By the time we had eight or ten members we had control of the union.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who helped you in this organizational work at Crucible Steel Company?

Mr. CVETIC. Dave Grant, who was the city secretary of the Communist Party in Pittsburgh; Eleanor Sackter; and Mike Saunders. Mike Saunders since has been transferred to New York City.

Mr. TAVENNER. Explain a little the operations of your cell. Did that cell meet separately from other Communist Party organizations?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, it did. At that time this cell was used by the District Committee of the Communist Party as an example of what can be done in the steel industry by concentrating our efforts. And as a result of this work, the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania was able to elect at least three members of this cell as top officials of the Steel Workers Union at this plant. They were later ousted by the union members when their Communist Party status was exposed.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who were those that were exposed as Communist Party members and expelled from the union?

Mr. CVETIC. One was Zygmund Pascowski. Another was Joseph "Sonny" Robinson. Another one who was elected an officer, whether he was ousted or not I don't know, was Mike Filewich.

Mr. TAVENNER. You don't know whether he was ousted or not?

Mr. CVETIC. No. I know the first two were, because non-Communist union members waged a terrific fight against them.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is there currently a Communist Party cell in operation at the Crucible Steel Company?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is the present membership, if you know?

Mr. CVETIC. As I understand it, the membership is down to ten or eleven members.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you identify any of the present members there?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I can. While I haven't had contact with this cell over the past two years, I have seen at Communist Party meetings Mike Filewich and Joseph "Sonny" Robinson, even though I understand that for some reason which was not apparent to me Sonny Robinson was censored by the District Committee of the Communist Party, and he may even have been expelled since my contacts with him.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you identify for the committee other members of the Communist Party who are currently active or have been active in the steel industry for the benefit of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I can add some names to the organizers I have already mentioned.

At the J. & L. Plant, South Side, Alex Stabor was one of the Communist Party organizers, although I believe that recently he has been transferred to the UE cell of the Communist Party.

At Homestead Steel, Elmer Kish has been and still is the Communist Party organizer.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is K-i-s-h?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. Tony Salopek is the Communist Party organizer at the Carnegie Steel Company in Duquesne.

I want to make it clear these are Communist Party organizers and not union organizers.

Mr. WALTER. And they occupy positions in the union in the plant?

Mr. CVETIC. Some do, but in recent elections many of the Communist Party members have been voted out of office, but they still carry on their Communist work; they distribute literature and so on.

Mr. WALTER. What kind of work does George Wuchinich do?

Mr. CVETIC. He is head of Dobrovolni Odbor in New York City.

Mr. WALTER. What is that?

Mr. CVETIC. It does export and import business, as I understand it. I am not familiar with the organization.

Mr. WALTER. Did he serve with the armed forces in Yugoslavia?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. He served with the OSS in Yugoslavia, and he was also in China.

Mr. WALTER. You have spoken of these persons as being members of the Communist Party. How do you know that to be true?

Mr. CVETIC. I am testifying here on the basis of having attended Communist Party District Committee meetings with these individuals; attending Communist Party Functionary meetings with them; I attended one or two Steel Commission meetings; Nationality Commission meetings, and so on. I am testifying on the basis I have attended with these individuals Communist Party meetings called for Communist Party members alone. I am not referring to Communist Party mass meetings.

I am referring to secret and clandestine meetings called for the purpose of hammering out Communist Party line and policy.

Mr. TAVENNER. At this point I would like to ask you certain questions regarding the Communist Party's interest and activity within the United Electrical Workers. Can you tell the committee what policy the Communist Party followed with regard to the electrical workers in the Pittsburgh area?

Mr. CVETIC. While I have never been assigned to work in the electrical industry, I have attended District Committee meetings and section committee meetings, and I can testify that in Pittsburgh the Communist Party organizers in the electrical industry have been reassigned since Steve Nelson came to Pittsburgh, that is, since August 1948.

For example, Sam Reed, who was working in the steel concentration area, was transferred to the Erie area.

Dave Grant was sent to East Pittsburgh to concentrate his efforts at the Westinghouse plant.

And Jack Sartisky was assigned to the North Side section of Pittsburgh to concentrate on the UE plant there.

As a member of the North Side section of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania, I attended meetings with Jack Sartisky, and at these meetings Jack Sartisky would report on the success he was having at this plant, and at these meetings the Communist line which Jack Sartisky was to carry down to the members in his cell was discussed.

Other members of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania who were assigned to carry the Communist Party line into the United Electrical Workers and to build the Communist Party in this union are the following--and, again, I know these people to be Communist Party members for the same reasons I have given before:

Tom Fitzpatrick.

Mr. TAVENNER. You testified yesterday regarding Tom Fitzpatrick?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. Tom Quinn; Alice Roth; and Nate Alberts.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you know Steve Rosner, who was the international representative of UE in Pittsburgh, and if so, was he a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I know Steve Rosner very well, and I have attended District Committee meetings of the Communist Party with Steve Rosner. He is a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know where Steve Rosner is now?

Mr. CVETIC. No, I do not.

Mr. TAVENNER. With regard to the UE, who would you say are the principal workers for the Communist Party within the UE organization?

Mr. CVETIC. In the Communist movement in Western Pennsylvania, Tom Fitzpatrick was always looked upon as the leading member. At District Committee meetings of the Communist Party,

Tom Fitzpatrick, at least up until recently, usually made the report on what was being accomplished at the Westinghouse plant in East Pittsburgh. On many occasions, Tom Quinn accompanied Tom Fitzpatrick at these meetings.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, in your absence yesterday, I brought out the fact Tom Fitzpatrick had been brought here to testify and had refused to answer questions regarding his affiliations with the Communist Party. The Tom Quinn just referred to and identified by Mr. Cvetic as a member of the Communist Party, was before this committee on August 11, 1949, in connection with the committee's investigation of UE Local 601 at Pittsburgh, and refused to answer questions regarding his membership in the Communist Party.

At this point, Mr. Cvetic, I would like to ask you whether or not, during this present Congress, when various witnesses were subpoenaed for their appearance before this committee, there was any unusual activity of any kind within the Communist Party committees relative to their being subpoenaed?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I attended at least two meetings which were called in Pittsburgh by Steve Nelson where the question of what the members of the Communist Party who were summoned before this committee were to answer in reply to the question, "Are you a member of the Communist Party?"

Mr. WALTER. Did they receive legal advice at these meetings?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. WALTER. From whom?

Mr. CVETIC. At the meetings I attended, Hyman Schlessinger and M. Y. Steinberg attended either one or both of these meetings.

Mr. WALTER. Did they advise them not to testify if asked if they were Communist Party members?

Mr. CVETIC. The meeting I attended was at the time Leo Fisher and Frank Borish were being called before the committee to testify, so we had a special meeting on this.

Mr. WALTER. Do you object to your photograph being taken?

Mr. CVETIC. No, it doesn't bother me.

Mr. WALTER. All right. Take the pictures.

(Pictures taken by photographers.)

Mr. CVETIC. These meetings, as I testified before, were called on instructions of Steve Nelson. At one meeting I attended, in addition to the attorneys, Leo Fisher was present, George Wuckinich, Frank Borich, and myself. After a discussion during which different opinions were advanced by those present, the decision reached--and this was in discussion with the attorneys--the decision reached was that in answer to the question, "Are you a member of the Communist Party?" which they expected would be asked by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, they should refuse to answer on the basis it is a violation of the First and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution.

Mr. TAVENNER. So it became a part of the Party line to

advise witnesses subpoenaed before this committee not to answer?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. WALTER. Do you know whether or not that advice has been given generally as a part of the policy of the Communists, to advise their members they would not have to answer questions before this committee?

Mr. CVETIC. On this particular question, I attended these two meetings, and the subject was also discussed in meetings of Party functionaries in Western Pennsylvania. To the best of my knowledge, the line handed down has been that they should refuse to answer this question on the ground it is a violation of the First and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution. This has been the line hammered out by the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know whether any specific instructions along that line were given to Tom Fitzpatrick and Tom Quinn?

Mr. CVETIC. I can't answer specifically as to Tom Fitzpatrick and Tom Quinn, but at the policy-making meetings which I have attended in the past few years on this question, the decision was that the members summoned before the House Committee on Un-American Activities should refuse to answer on the grounds that it was a violation of their constitutional rights guaranteed under the First and Fifth Amendments.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, I think it is interesting, in

that connection, for me to recall to your mind the further answer of Tom Quinn when he refused to answer the questions put to him. He stated he was refusing to answer because he was defending the Constitution, which he held sacred. He stated: "I don't think I am hiding behind the Constitution, but in this case I am standing before it, defending it, as small as I am."

Mr. WALTER. That is not surprising, because a great many people hide behind the Constitution that they would destroy.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, do you know Leo Turner, an organizer of District 6 of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I do.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is he a member of the Communist Party, to your knowledge?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. How do you know that he is a member?

Mr. CVETIC. I attended District Committee meetings with him in the lecture room of the North Side Carnegie Library.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know Charles Newell, an international representative of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, assigned to District 6?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I do.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is he a member of the Communist Party, to your knowledge?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, he is.

Mr. TAVENNER. How do you know that?

Mr. CVETIC. I attended District Committee meetings of the Communist Party with him.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, what concentration has been made by the Communist Party on the coal industry in the Pittsburgh area?

Mr. CVETIC. In the coal industry in Western Pennsylvania the Communist Party has assigned in recent years Gabe Kish, also known as George Kane, as the organizer in the coal mining concentration work.

In the last two or three months I have lost contact with Gabe Kish. He has not been in the district the last couple months.

Mr. TAVENNER. Where are the Communist Party activities in mining centered?

Mr. CVETIC. Most of the Communist Party activities in mining are centered in Washington County, Allegheny Valley, and around the Johnstown area. Some of the other organizers in this area are:

Mike Stanovich, for Allegheny Valley.

Steve Paich, for Washington County.

Steve Straka, also for Washington County.

I want to point out that I have spoken at meetings in the coal mining areas, and the United Mine Workers resent very much

the Communist Party. Since John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers seem to know what the Communists are up to, the Communist Party has never been too successful in their work among the United Mine Workers.

Gabe Kish, under the name of George Kane, was elected a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party at the 1945 convention.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, there is information in the files of this committee to the effect that there is considerable Communist activity in the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union in Western Pennsylvania. Is that correct?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. Could you give the committee the benefit of your knowledge regarding such activity?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. The Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania has a Communist cell working in the major hotels in Pittsburgh, and this cell is also responsible for Communist Party infiltration in the Heinz plant located in North Side Pittsburgh.

I have knowledge of this, since I was a member of the North Side Section Committee, and the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' cell of the Communist Party is also a part of the North Side section, and I attended many meetings with the organizers from this cell.

The main organizers in this cell for the Communist Party

are:

Joe Mankin, who now is in charge of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' cell in Pittsburgh.

Nick Lazaris.

George Nichols, who is the hiring agent for the Hotel and Restaurant Workers in Pittsburgh.

Eddie Lang, who works at the Heinz plant.

Hamp Golden, who also works at the Heinz plant.

Mr. TAVENNER. Helen Kompus?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. Helen Kompus, who works at the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh.

In the past six months Joe Mankin has been the key organizer for the Communist Party activities in this cell, and has been instrumental in carrying on most of the agitation work now being conducted at the Heinz plant and in the hotels in Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are you familiar with an organization called Labor Youth League in Pittsburgh?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I am.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is this a national organization of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, it is.

Mr. TAVENNER. Tell the committee what you know of the organization and the functioning of such organization?

Mr. CVETIC. I attended a meeting of Communist functionaries

in Pittsburgh in the spring of 1949 where the importance of setting up such a league was discussed.

Mr. TAVENNER. What year was that?

Mr. CVETIC. In the spring of 1949, this past year.

Mr. TAVENNER. The spring of this past year?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. Subsequent to this meeting, Harold "Sonny" Orzick, who was sent to Pittsburgh by the National Board of the Communist Party for the purpose of organizing the youth in Western Pennsylvania, called a meeting at the Fort Pitt Hotel for the purpose of setting up a Labor Youth League in Pittsburgh.

William Albertson made the main report at this meeting. In this report he stressed the importance of setting up a Labor Youth League, and officers were elected at this meeting.

The policies of the Labor Youth League, however, are discussed and decided at meetings of the District Board of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania and by leading functionaries of the Communist Party.

The Labor Youth League usually meets on Saturdays, but that is not a fixed day.

I have attended several meetings where the youth movement was discussed, and I would like to report on a recent meeting of the Communist Party functionaries which I attended, four or five weeks ago, in the Fort Pitt Hotel.

Stressing the importance of youth work, Bill Albertson, district secretary of the Communist Party, made the following

statement: "Hitler won the youth in Germany before he was able to wage a successful fight for Fascism, The Communist Party in the Soviet Union won over the youth before they were able to wage a successful revolution in 1917. And we must win the youth in the United States over to our program before we can wage a successful struggle here."

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you identify for the committee some of the leaders in this youth movement who are members of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. In addition to Harold Orzik, who is the youth organizer for the Communist Party, Bobby Jones is active in youth work.

Mr. TAVENNER. What does Harold Orzik do? What is his occupation?

Mr. CVETIC. He is a repair mechanic for Lou Bortz, who operates an electrical appliance shop in Pittsburgh.

Mr. WALTER. What do the activities among the youth consist of?

Mr. CVETIC. I have attended policy-making meetings. They distribute Communist Party literature. Many are active in organizing affairs within the framework of the Progressive Party.

Mr. WALTER. By "affairs" you mean athletic contests and such?

Mr. CVETIC. No. Most of the affairs recently were to raise

funds.

Mr. WALTER. I am more concerned with the activities in indoctrinating the youth.

Mr. CVETIC. I haven't attended any of the classes. The indoctrination is done at classes. So I couldn't testify as to that because I wasn't present.

Mr. WALTER. Who did you say was in charge of youth work in Pittsburgh?

Mr. CVETIC. Harold Orzik.

Mr. WALTER. Where is he now?

Mr. CVETIC. Pittsburgh.

Mr. WALTER. Do you have his address?

Mr. CVETIC. No.

Mr. WALTER. I think it might be well to subpoena him, because it could be well for the American people to learn what the activities are in the way of indoctrinating the youth.

Mr. KEARNEY. Didn't you say he was working in a repair shop?

Mr. CVETIC. Electrical appliance shop, yes.

Mr. KEARNEY. You can get his address?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I can get his address. I can get the address of his place of business. I sold him insurance last week. He called the office and bought automobile insurance from me, but I didn't take the time to get the address. I can get his home telephone number from the office.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who are some of the other persons active in the youth work?

Mr. CVETIC. Two other persons are Evelyn Abelson and Eddie Nixon.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have mentioned Harold Orzik, Bobby Jones, Evelyn Abelson, and Eddie Nixon as being active in the youth work. How many of those are Communists, to your knowledge?

Mr. CVETIC. The ones I mentioned are all Communist Party members. Again, I am testifying on the basis of attending Communist Party meetings with them.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know the occupation of any of the others in that group? You have already given us the occupation of Harold Orzik.

Mr. CVETIC. My last contacts with Bobby Jones and Eddie Nixon, they were both unemployed. Evelyn Abelson, I do not know her occupation.

May I also say, in connection with the suggestion of Congressman Walter that Harold Orzik be subpoenaed to come before this committee, it may not be a bad idea to bring some of the others with him, because in the last eight months they have been making some progress in building the Labor Youth League.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is the approximate membership of the Youth League as of this time?

Mr. CVETIC. The meeting which I attended at the Fort Pitt

Hotel was attended by approximately forty youths. I would place the approximate membership at not more than sixty.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is this organization completely controlled by the Communist Party, to your knowledge?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. This organization is completely controlled by the Communist Party. It was set up by the Communist Party for the purpose of activating the youth and to carry the Communist Party line into youth organizations, into the colleges, into the schools, and into the steel mills.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, the committee would like for you to explain the organization and strength of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania, giving the number of branches, cells, and total membership, if you can.

Mr. CVETIC. Since 1948, at a meeting at the Seventh Avenue Hotel, for security reasons it was decided not to make too many things public. It has been a little difficult to get this information. I will give you as much as I have here.

The Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania has been broken down into sections since Steve Nelson came to Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. How many sections?

Mr. CVETIC. Five or six. Certainly not more than seven. And I am talking about Western Pennsylvania sections.

Mr. TAVENNER. Proceed.

Mr. CVETIC. One of the sections is the Steel Section, which we have discussed. That is the steel concentration section.

Another section is the North Side Section, of which I am a member.

In addition to these two sections there are three or four other sections in Western Pennsylvania. For example, in the North Side Section we have the North Side Club, Croatian Club, the Hotel and Restaurant Workers, and the Lawrenceville Club.

Mr. TAVENNER. Those are four or five subsections of the North Side Section?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right. Until a few months ago we had a UE cell. Jack Sartisky headed it. In the last few months its activities were transferred to the East Pittsburgh Section, where the main UE Communist Party activities are concentrated.

The Steel Section would comprise the branches in the steel concentration area, in the Homestead, Braddock, Duquesne and surrounding areas. The other branches were placed in a similar manner; for example, the J. & L. Hill Club, and the Crucible Club, and one or two other branches belong to another section.

Mr. WALTER. Are these the only heavy industries in which these activities prevail? Do they go into cement, for example?

Mr. CVETIC. No. In the work the Communist Party carried on in Western Pennsylvania, the top concentration was first

plants of United States Steel. That was then and is still what they call the steel concentration area.

Mr. WALTER. Were similar activities conducted in the plants of Bethlehem Steel?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I am sure they were. The program hammered out in the national convention of the Communist Party in 1945 is still in effect today, and that is that we concentrate on basic steel. That was an absolute policy that was followed. The same way with this youth program. This is also a decision of the national convention of the Communist Party of 1945.

Mr. WALTER. What happened to the organization, American Youth for Democracy? That was an organization that was quite active at one time.

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I attended a couple of their affairs. It just went out of existence.

Mr. WALTER. Didn't it go out of existence as a result of the exposure of it by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mr. CVETIC. That is part of it. When those organizations are exposed, their usefulness usually ceases. For example, in Western Pennsylvania we were able to get quite a few non-Communists into the American Slav Congress work. About two years ago the Pittsburgh press carried an expose' of the American Slav Congress in its newspapers and we lost a lot

of members. In the last two years the only people who have attended American Slav Congress meetings have been Communist Party members. Exposing these organizations is the most effective way of preventing infiltration.

Mr. TAVENNER. You were telling us about the various clubs within the steel concentration section. What about the UE organization? Can you give us any detailed information in regard to that?

Mr. CVETIC. No. I mentioned that the only UE unit in the section of which I was a member, the North Side Section, recently was transferred to a UE concentration point in Western Pennsylvania. All the cells were put in one because they have a common interest.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you give the committee the approximate total membership of these sections that you have just enumerated?

Mr. CVETIC. The only section that I can give you a figure for is the North Side Section, of which I am a member, and this section had 90 members. I think we are going to lose a few members; perhaps one that I know of.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who heads the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania?

Mr. CVETIC. Steve Nelson. He is the district organizer for Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you identify for the committee his immediate subordinates who assist him in the performance of

his duties?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. His immediate subordinates are:

Andy Onda, who is in charge of steel concentration work for the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania.

William Albertson, district secretary of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania.

Ben Careathers, who is in charge of Negro concentration work in Western Pennsylvania.

Leo Fisher, who is in charge of the Nationality Commission under Steve Nelson.

Dave Grant, who has been assigned to the East Pittsburgh area as the Communist Party organizer for Communist Party organization and activities in the Westinghouse plant at East Pittsburgh.

Sam Reed, who is the organizer for the Communist Party at the General Electric plant in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Bill Gordon, who was sent to Pittsburgh for the purpose of assisting Andy Onda in steel concentration work.

Joe Mankin, who has been assigned by William Albertson, district secretary, to concentrate his efforts in the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union.

Harold "Sonny" Orzik, who was sent to Western Pennsylvania by the National Board of the Communist Party for the purpose of organizing the youth movement in Western Pennsylvania for the Communist Party and setting up a Labor Youth League.

Alex Wright, who was assigned by the Communist Party to direct the work of the Progressive Party in Western Pennsylvania.

Milo Mamula, who was assigned by the Communist Party to conduct the work in the Civil Rights Congress.

George Wuchinich, who left for New York a couple months ago. Up until that time he was assigned to the American Slav Congress activities and to carry the Party line into this organization.

I think that covers his immediate subordinates.

Mr. TAVENNER. This list of individuals you have given us constitute the top-level Communists in the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania as it exists today?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct, yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. During the years that you spent in the Communist Party, how long did you know Steve Nelson, and how well did you know him?

Mr. CVETIC. I first met Steve after the national convention of the Communist Party in 1945, when he was assigned to direct the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party, USA. Until August of 1948 I met periodically--and when I say periodically that would be when Steve Nelson would call a meeting of the Nationality Commission and invite me as a member of the Slovene Commission--with Nelson in New York and Pittsburgh, either at meetings of the Nationality Commission, or met with him personally to discuss my work as secretary of

the Slovene Commission.

After Steve Nelson was assigned to Western Pennsylvania as its district organizer in August of 1948, up until November 1949 when he became incapacitated due to a broken leg which he suffered while he was out hunting, I met regularly with Steve Nelson to discuss policy for the American Slav Congress and other front organizations in which I was active and which I have identified before.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, this is a convenient place to stop. It apparently is not going to be possible for him to complete his testimony today.

Mr. WALTER. The committee will recess until 10:15 tomorrow morning.

(Thereupon, at 12:10 p.m. on February 22, 1950, a recess was taken until Thursday, February 23, 1950, at 10:15 a.m.)

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTY-FIRST CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

Date February 23, 1950

ALTHEA ARGENEAUX
6817 Glenbrook Road
Bethesda 14, Maryland
Official Reporter
Telephone: Wisconsin 5024

I N D E X

PUBLIC HEARING

February 23, 1950

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Witness

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Exhibit

Cvetic Exhibit No. 1 - Organ of the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers' Parties, Bucharest, Friday, February 10, 1950. No. 6 (66)	176
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Thursday, February 23, 1950

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Washington, D. C.

PUBLIC HEARING

Morning Session

The subcommittee met, pursuant to adjournment, at 10:30 a.m. in room 226, Old House Office Building, Washington, D. C., Hon. Morgan M. Moulder presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives Morgan M. Moulder, Francis Case, and Bernard W. Kearney.

Staff members present: Frank S. Tavenner, Jr., counsel; Donald T. Appell, William A. Wheeler, and Courtney Owens, investigators; John W. Carrington, clerk; and A. S. Poore, editor.

Mr. MOULDER. The committee will be in order. Have the record show that these hearings are being continued by a subcommittee consisting of myself as acting chairman, Mr. Case, and Mr. Kearney, as authorized and directed by the chairman, Hon. John S. Wood.

Are you ready to proceed, Mr. Tavenner?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes, sir.

TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW CVETIC (Resumed)

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, at the time of our adjournment yesterday you were telling the committee of your associations in Communist work with Steve Nelson, and the position that he occupied. As a result of your position within the Communist Party, would you state that you worked in close relationship with Steve Nelson in Communist Party matters?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I have. Actually, the last year and a half or so, up until he broke his leg, I was in almost daily contact with Steve Nelson.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is it the practice for Steve Nelson, in his capacity as district organizer, to supervise and instruct Party members as to the Party line and Party teachings?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, it is.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you describe a little in detail as to how that is done?

Mr. CVETIC. As the head of the District Board of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania, and as the district organizer, it is Steve Nelson's job to carry to the District Committee and functionaries' meetings the Communist Party line changes when they occur.

These Party line changes usually are given to him at meetings of the National Board of the Communist Party, which are usually held in New York City. When Steve Nelson would make a report on a Party line change he would so specify that

he had received this information at these Board meetings, and he would present it to a combined meeting of the District Committee and leading functionaries.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you at any time discussed with Nelson such subjects as Russia's knowledge of atom secrets, or the Communist Party's successes in China?

Mr. CVETIC. Well, I can quote Steve Nelson on the atom bomb, but in so far as the atom bomb secret, I always thought it was the better part of discretion not to ask any questions concerning espionage of the atom bomb. However, when President Truman announced that Russia had the atom bomb, I rode home with Steve Nelson after a meeting and he made the following statement to me, and I am quoting here Steve Nelson; he said: "We have the atom bomb now and the enemy won't be in such a God damned hurry to start a war." When he said the "enemy" he was referring to the United States Government.

On another occasion, before a meeting which was held at the Unitarian Center in North Side, when the Communist victory in China was becoming apparent early last year, Steve Nelson said to me: "We are going to have the biggest liquidation of people's enemies in China since the 1917 revolution."

And still on another occasion, in referring to help for China--and here I am talking about help from the United States, we were discussing help for the new people's government in China--Steve Nelson made the following statement to me: "We should

take all the help in money, machinery and material from the enemy"--and here again "enemy" refers to the United States-- "as this will hasten the day here." When he refers to help he is talking about help for the new people's government in China.

He further said: "We should take all the help we can from the suckers over here."

Mr. CASE. What was the date of that statement?

Mr. CVETIC. The date and the statement are in the files of the FBI. I did not keep copies of my reports to the FBI, but I did keep notations. This was when the victory in China was becoming apparent, and they started to build a drive here to get help from the United States for machinery and material.

Mr. CASE. In other words, it was within the past year?

Mr. CVETIC. It was within the past year. His statement is in my reports in the FBI files.

Mr. KEARNEY. May I ask a question here, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. MOULDER. Yes.

Mr. KEARNEY. I have listened to your testimony with a great deal of interest. I have listened to the testimony as you have told from time to time of meetings not only within your own District Board with Communists, but also with men of the top level in the Communist Party. What I would like to know is, at any time during any of these meetings, either with Nelson or with any other individual belonging to the Communist

Party, was there any discussion about the overthrow of this Government by force and violence?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, Congressman. Later I am going to quote Steve Nelson at one particular meeting where he quoted out of the History of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union.

Mr. CASE. You stated until he broke his leg, you were in fairly close touch with him. At approximately what date did he break his leg?

Mr. CVETIC. It seems to me it was the early part of November, 1949. He went hunting at Ridgeway and tripped over a stump, according to the newspapers, and broke his leg, and he has not been very active since until the last couple weeks he has been coming into the office occasionally.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have spoken of Steve Nelson as an individual who, through his position, passed down the Party line to other persons. Is there any other person active in passing the Party line down to the rank and file?

Mr. CVETIC. Oftentimes, when a Communist Party line change related to an organizational problem, Bill Albertson, district secretary of the Communist Party, was given the job of making a report to the District Committee and functionaries. When the report of the Communist Party line change related to basic industry, or steel concentration, or, for example, when Phillip Murray took a stand against Communist Party activities in the union, in this kind of situation Andy Onda, Communist Party

organizer in steel concentration in Western Pennsylvania, would usually report on the Party line change.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who in the Party has the function of educating the rank and file members regarding the teachings of Communism?

Mr. CVETIC. On that I can go back to 1945. At that time I was a member of the Organizational and Educational Committee of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania. I can give you the members I sat with on this Committee.

Mr. MOULDER. It is necessary at this time that I absent myself because I have to attend an important hearing before the Senate Appropriations Committee. Have the record show Mr. Case will preside, and Mr. Case and Mr. Kearney are sitting as an authorized and designated subcommittee.

Mr. CASE. Counsel will proceed.

Mr. TAVENNER. You were about to give us, I believe, the names of those who functioned prominently in handing down to the rank and file of the Party the educational features of the Party.

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. From the national convention of the Communist Party in 1945 until August 1948, I served on the Organizational and Educational Committee of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania. This Committee was responsible, as the title indicates, for the organizational and educational direction in the Party. Roy Hudson, who was district organizer

Mr. KEARNEY. What was Murin's first name?

Mr. CVETIC. Stephen.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was the function of this Committee which you described?

Mr. CVETIC. This Committee was responsible for directing the organizational and educational work of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania. My job as a member of this Committee was to prepare and arrange affairs to raise funds for the Communist Party. Bessie Steinberg planned classes, with the help of Dave Grant, who was city secretary of the Communist Party at the time. Jim Dolsen planned Daily and Sunday Worker drives.

In meetings we would report what we had accomplished, and plan future work for the Party. Andrea Hudson was membership secretary, and she would plan the work of registration and usually make reports on how many members we had, losses if any, increases, and a breakdown of membership, what industries they were working in, and so on.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee what efforts were made to indoctrinate you with Communist philosophy and teachings, and how this philosophy and teaching is carried to the rank and file of the Communist Party in the United States?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I will be glad to do that. During my early days in the Communist Party most of the theory

of the Party at that time, was chairman of the Committee. His wife, Andrea Hudson, was membership secretary of the Committee. Bessie Murin Steinberg was the educational director of this Committee. Jim Dalsen, the Daily Worker editor for Western Pennsylvania, was on the Committee. Eleanor Sackter, who was responsible for the steel concentration work at the Crucible Club, was a member of this Committee. And Joe Godfrey, who, up until he left Pennsylvania, was treasurer of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania, was also a member of this Committee. And I was a member of this Committee as a member of the Finance Committee of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania at that time.

Mr. TAVENNER. You mentioned Bessie Steinberg as the educational director of the Committee. Do you know whether she was married to a person other than Steinberg at one time?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. She isn't married at the present time, as I recollect. Her maiden name was Steinberg, and she was married to a Communist Party member whose last name was Murin.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was that Steve Murin, M-u-r-i-n?

Mr. CVETIC. Steve; that is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did Steve Murin live in Pittsburgh?

Mr. CVETIC. When I met Bessie Murin Steinberg she had already been divorced, and I have never had contact with Steve Murin, except I know from conversation within the organization that she was married to him at one time.

taught in the classes which I attended was based on the books written by Earl Browder. I joined the Party in February 1943, and most of the reading material and books at that time were books which were written by Earl Browder. At that time the line was that the Communist Party and Capitalism can cooperate over a long period of time, and that eventually Socialism may be attained by peaceful means. This was the line between February 1943 and the national convention of the Communist Party in 1945.

In the summer of 1945 I attended some of the sessions of the national convention of the Communist Party, and subsequent and prior to that national convention I attended many district meetings of the Communist Party, and also Communist Party branch meetings, at which the new Communist Party line adopted at the national convention in 1945 was discussed.

The change in the Party line at the national convention of the Communist Party in 1945 was adopted as the result of a report made by Jacques Duclos, a leader of the French Communist Party. He issued for the American Communist Party a report which was published, I think, as early as April 1945, in which he sharply criticized the American Communist Party for the line which they were using at that time, and this line was that the progressive sections of Capitalism and the forces of Socialism should work together.

As I remember, in this particular report, too, Jacques

Duclos said that the comrades in Europe were very much disturbed at the attitude of the American Communist Party members; and he said they expected more help over there, and that the American Communist Party's line at that time was causing a lot of feeling in Europe among the Communists; that they felt we were not helping at all.

At the national convention where this report was used as a guide, the teachings of Earl Browder, who taught that Communism and Capitalism can cooperate over a long period of time and that eventually there could be a peaceful transition to Socialism, were thrown out and were replaced once again by the teachings of Marx, Lenin, Stalin and Engles. In the words of the speakers at the national convention and later at district and branch meetings of the Communist Party: "We must again become the party of the working class, the party of struggle. We must educate the workers to their correct role in this struggle and establish in the United States a dictatorship of the proletariat."

I want to add here that I attended the national convention, and there were many questions raised as to why Earl Browder was ousted from the Communist Party. Whether he was just what we call in the United States a "fall" guy in the change in Party line, I don't know, but it was my definite impression from what I heard and observed that he was ousted because he advocated a peaceful transition to Socialism. And this report

of Jacques Duclos required a change of personalities, and after the convention of 1945 the Communist Party line was to go back to the teachings of Marx and Lenin, which advocated the violent overthrow of existing governments.

Mr. CASE. This quotation, is that taken from an official document?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. It is taken from the Party line. I turned over the official report to the FBI.

Mr. CASE. Was it adopted at the national convention?

Mr. CVETIC. It was adopted at the national convention.

Mr. CASE. How was it expressed at the local or district meetings?

Mr. CVETIC. At the District Committee meetings, and brought down to the branch meetings, it was expressed the same way. At one meeting Joe Godfrey and Dolly Gainor spoke on this change, and Roy Hudson. I could mention a lot of names. We did have meetings after the national convention. District Committee meetings are called to adopt by vote the resolutions of the national convention. I attended several such meetings. We voted to adopt the line of the national convention.

Mr. CASE. Was Duclos himself present at the national convention?

Mr. CVETIC. No.

Mr. CASE. What form did his report take?

Mr. CVETIC. At that time I was not too familiar with members

of the National Board, but the people who spoke at the meeting would present this line right from the speaker's platform in the convention. As a matter of fact, after the line was once adopted it was a question of either accepting the line or those who would not accept it were expelled from the Party. After that the Browder teachings were referred to as Browderism; and that term is used in the Party at this time to designate anyone who follows Browder's teachings.

Mr. CASE. Let the record show that the acting chairman was called to the telephone and that Mr. Kearney will preside.

(Mr. Case leaves.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Duclos was a member of the Communist Party in France?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know whether he was actually considered as the mouthpiece of the Communist International?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, he was.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know, or did you learn, what authority he had to speak for the Communist International?

Mr. CVETIC. Why, again, this is a subject that was never discussed at any meetings. His articles at that time were given prominence in the Sunday and Daily Worker, which is the official newspaper of the Communist Party here. These articles by Duclos, which appeared in the Sunday and Daily Worker, were used as the basis of the discussion which resulted in the Party line

change. And the Party line change was to go back to the teachings of Marx, Lenin, Stalin and Engles.

Mr. TAVENNER. So the suggestions made by Duclos were carried out and became a part of the new Party line?

Mr. CVETIC. They became the new Party line, that is correct.

Mr. TAVENNER. Could the Communist Party of the United States, after its 1945 convention, have followed any other line than that stated by Duclos?

Mr. CVETIC. My answer to that would be that it could not, because anyone who did not accept this new line was expelled from the Party. There were expulsions of members about this time. Some of the leaders in Philadelphia were expelled because they would not accept the new line. I don't recall their names, but they are of record in the Sunday and Daily Worker.

Mr. TAVENNER. And I believe you stated Browder was expelled?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct, because he would not accept the new Party line.

Mr. KEARNEY. Is Browder now a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. No. He was expelled from the Party because of his adherence to his own teachings, which were cooperating with Capitalism over a long period of time, and so on.

Mr. TAVENNER. Between the year 1943 and the time you attended the convention in 1945, were you under instructions from the Party as to the theory and philosophy of the Communist teachings?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. A Communist never stops receiving instructions, either in classes or through "must" reading.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is it mandatory that they receive such instructions?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. Communist Party members attend classes on various levels. For example, classes are set up for functionaries, that is, for advanced members of the Communist Party; then there are classes for Communist Party members who are beginners and perhaps can't absorb the advanced theories; and we have even organized classes for Communist Party sympathizers, to try to get them into the Party.

In other words, there were different classes in Marxiam, Leninism, and so on. The Communist Party also assigns to its members outstanding theoretical books of Marx, Lenin, and Stalen as "must" reading, guides for action.

Mr. TAVENNER. You speak of guides for action. That is distinguished from the reading of books for dogma or theory?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you say the books on the "must" list for study were intended as guides for action?

Mr. CVETIC. Absolutely, yes. And the Party program is to take what you learn into your trade unions and educate the masses as to what the Communist Party says is the correct role to take.

(Mr. Case returns.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Who were the instructors in these various classes on the different levels?

Mr. CVETIC. The most recent class I attended was for members of the executive committees of the section of which I was a member, and this was in January, February and March of 1949. This class was instructed by Bill Albertson, the district secretary of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. In the course of their teachings, how did they refer to the United States Government?

Mr. CVETIC. Well, I would like to draw here a comparison as to how they refer to the various governments. They would refer to the Soviet Union as a people's democracy. At the present time they would refer to the new Chinese Government as a people's democracy. And in referring to the United States Government they would refer to it as an imperialist government or imperialist aggressor at the present time.

In other words, our Government here, the United States Government, in the words of the Communist Party, is an imperialist government, so taught in classes, so used at Communist Party meetings.

Mr. TAVENNER. Tell us in what manner, if at all, the membership of the Communist Party is taught that forceful overthrow of the Government is required in order to advance, ultimately, the principles of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. I will answer that question in this way: I

mentioned before that the Communist Party is very careful on the use of the words "violent overthrow of the Government" or "revolution." Our present stress is to infiltrate into steel, and so forth, with the Party line.

I mentioned before that all our practices are based on the teachings of Marx, Lenin and Stalin. In one of the classes I attended--and this is the class I mentioned before, held in January, February and March, 1949--I was assigned by William Albertson, who is the district secretary of the Communist Party, to read the History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to help me gain the correct theory and practice that we are to follow.

Evidently in one of the classes I made a slip-up on theory, and Bill Albertson said I must read the History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to correct it. Previously, too, that book was "must" reading, and it is one of the books used in the educational classes.

I will read some excerpts from this book. On page 9 of the History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, under the caption "Dictatorship of the Proletariat and Violent Overthrow of the Existing Governments," I want to read the following:

"Marx and Engles taught that it was impossible to get rid of the power of capital and to convert capitalist property into public property by peaceful means and that the working class could achieve this only by revolutionary

violence against the bourgeoisie by a proletarian revolution by establishing its own political rule the dictatorship of the proletariat, which must crush the resistance of the exploiters and create a new classless Communist society."

This is right out of one of the books that is used as a text in the educational classes of the Communist Party, and it is a direct quote from Marx and Engles, whose teachings are at the present time being followed in the Communist Party of the United States.

Mr. CASE. And that was a book given to you as part of the study in the classes you attended in 1949?

Mr. CVETIC. That is absolutely true, yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. And I believe you described it as on the "must" list?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct. This book was given to me to read because I made some mistakes in theory in the class, and Bill Albertson assigned this book to me to correct the mistakes I had been making in my theory. I read it, and this is one of the excerpts. This is the actual book that I got (holding up book); I kept it.

Mr. CASE. And Bill Albertson was the instructor?

Mr. CVETIC. He was the instructor at this class, yes.

I would add here that the infiltration of trade unions by the Communist Party is no accident. Further on in this same

book, on page 9, we have the basis for their interest in the trade unions; and I am quoting again right out of the book?

"But Marx and Engles taught that the industrial proletariat is the most revolutionary and therefore the most advanced class in Capitalist society, and that only a class like the proletariat could rally around itself all the forces discontented with Capitalism and lead them in the storming of Capitalism. But in order to vanquish the old world and create a new classless society the proletariat must have its own working class party which Marx and Engles call the Communist Party."

We have always been taught in class that the trade union movement must be used as the base, and that is the reason why basic industries and the unions in the basic industries are the main concentration of the Communist Party, because in their teachings they teach that unless they can gain control of the working class, they cannot have a revolution; that this is the base from which they must storm Capitalism.

Mr. CASE. Where did you attend this class?

Mr. CVETIC. 440 Wood Street, on the third floor. This building has since been torn down; they are building a new building there.

Mr. CASE. In what city?

Mr. CVETIC. Pittsburgh.

Mr. TAVENNER. In the event of conflict between the Soviet

Union and this Government, what would be the position of the Communist Party of the United States and its members, as far as you have learned from the teachings and discussions within the Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Again, in answering this question I am going to answer it with the teachings of Marx and Lenin, which are the basis of the Communist Party line here.

At the many Communist Party meetings which I have attended in the last seven years, I have heard the leaders of the Communist Party refer to the Soviet Union as a people's democracy, and to the United States as an imperialist government or an imperialist aggressor.

I am mentioning this because when I read the next excerpt I would like the committee to pay particular attention to the term "imperialist government."

I should like to read the following excerpt from pages 167 and 168 of the History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Communist Bible of Theory and Practice.

Before I read this I also want to state here that last year I attended a meeting in the Jewish Cultural Center, located at 6328 Forbes Street in Pittsburgh. This meeting was called by the Communist Party in the district for the purpose of organizing the Sunday and Daily Worker drive. Steve Nelson, who is the district organizer of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania, made a talk at this meeting, and he quoted this particular para-

graph right out of the History of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union. There were about fifty people at this meeting. I also reported to the FBI that this particular excerpt was read by Steve Nelson at this meeting, which was either in January or February of 1949. I am going to quote, and this is right out of the book:

"It was not to every kind of war that the Bolsheviks were opposed. They were only opposed to wars of conquest and imperialistic war. The Bolsheviks held that there were two kinds of war: (a) Just wars, wars that were not wars of conquest but wars of liberation waged to defend the people from foreign attack and from attempts to enslave them, or to liberate the people from capitalistic slavery or, lastly, to liberate colonies and defend countries from the yoke of imperialism; (b) unjust wars,"--

that is, the other kind of wars--

"wars of conquest, waged to conquer and enslave foreign countries and foreign nations. Wars of the first kind the Bolsheviks supported."--

that is, the just wars that they referred to--

"As to wars of the second kind the Bolsheviks maintained that a resolute struggle must be waged against them to the point of revolution and the overthrow of one's own imperialist government."

As a member of the Communist Party, I would take this to mean

that if I was a Communist Party member in good standing and there was a war between the Soviet Union and the United States Government, which the Communist Party refers to here as an imperialist government, my job would be to wage a struggle against my own Government to the point of overthrowing it.

Mr. KEARNEY. In other words, if there was a war between the Soviet Union and the United States of America, every Communist in good standing in the Communist Party would support the Soviet Union in the war between our Government and the Soviet Union?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. The words are very clear to me. They refer to us as an imperialist government.

Mr. KEARNEY. I would take that to mean, reading it for the first time, a support in every way for the Soviet Union in its war with the United States?

Mr. CVETIC. I didn't understand you, Congressman.

Mr. KEARNEY. In other words, if there should be a conflict between the Soviet Union and our country, the United States of America, every Communist in this country would do everything within his power, by any means, to support the Soviet Union in that war?

Mr. CVETIC. That is correct. He would be bound by the teachings and advocacy of the Communist Party in the United States, as it says here, to wage a struggle against his own government, even to the point of a revolution and the overthrow of

his own "imperialist" government. The Communist Party refers to the United States Government as an imperialist government.

Mr. KEARNEY. Can you tell the committee if there would be any penalty attached to the individual Communist if he did not support the Soviet Union in the event of conflict ?

Mr. CVETIC. I will go back to the national convention of the Communist Party in 1945 when the Party line changed and Browder was expelled from the Party. I feel quite certain that any criticism of the Soviet Union, even just criticism, would be sufficient to have a member expelled from the Party.

Mr. KEARNEY. Would that be the only penalty?

Mr. CVETIC. Well, for example, the penalty for what I am doing here now, I read some of the newspaper reports out of Pittsburgh, and the Communist Party is referring to me in a lot of unglowing terms.

Mr. KEARNEY. What do you mean by that?

Mr. CVETIC. I am the victim of what Communists refer to as character assassination. They will dig up my past to print what they can in the Daily and Sunday Worker; and in the proverbial language I am a rat, a renegade, a traitor to the people, anti-democratic, anti-labor, and so on. In other words, you become the victim of character assassination.

Mr. CASE. What happens to your Party membership?

Mr. CVETIC. Well, I guess they will have a meeting one of these days--because I sat through some of these meetings--

and expel me.

Mr. CASE. These things you have been telling us are being taught in Communist schools in the United States as of 1949?

Mr. CVETIC. Since 1945.

Mr. CASE. But this class you attended where they assigned this textbook to you was in 1949?

Mr. CVETIC. January, February and March 1949. There are other textbooks. I will go into that later.

Mr. TAVENNER. I would like to interrupt at this moment, Mr. Chairman, to refresh your recollection as to what was said by Steve Nelson when he was before this committee on June 8, 1949. This question was asked him by Mr. Moulder:

"Mr. Nelson, in the event of war between the United States and Russia, to which country would you owe your allegiance and loyalty in such conflict?"

"Mr. Nelson. I refuse to answer that question."

Mr. KEARNEY. Did Steve Nelson go by any other name?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I answered that earlier. Steve Mesarosh. But in Pittsburgh since I have known him there he has used the name of Steve Nelson.

Mr. TAVENNER. You stated the title to one book which was assigned as "must" reading in the education of a Communist Party member. Are there other books?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, and I will state here the names of the

main books assigned as "must" reading for the Communist Party members. These books are all used in class instructions on the theory and practice of Communism as textbooks:

First, The Communist Manifesto.

Second, State and Revolution.

Third, History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Fourth, The Ten Classics of Marx.

Fifth, The Foundations of Leninism.

While there are many books which are used in Communist Party instructions, in the classes which I have attended I have found these to be the main ones used to indoctrinate Communist Party members in the United States.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, are you acquainted with radio station WLOA in Braddock, Pennsylvania?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I am.

Mr. TAVENNER. Tell us what you know about that station in regard to the use of Communist propaganda in the last few years.

Mr. CVETIC. While I was a member of the Executive Committee of the American Slav Congress I met with Roy Hudson and George Wuchinich at the YMCA in downtown Pittsburgh, and at Tambilini's restaurant on Fourth Avenue, to discuss a radio program for the American Slav Congress of Western Pennsylvania. At that time Roy Hudson was district organizer for the Communist Party.

As a result of these meetings, we decided to initiate a

program in the name of the American Slav Congress of Western Pennsylvania at radio station KQV. However, radio station KQV rejected our program, and after meeting with Calvin Brook, who is also a member of the Communist Party, we were able to obtain the facilities of radio station WLOA in Braddock, because Calvin Brook had what he said was a good contact out there and made the arrangements for us.

Mr. TAVENNER. When you say "for us" what group are you referring to?

Mr. CVETIC. I am referring to the American Slav Congress, but actually the program was organized by the Communist Party. The people who initiated the program were Roy Hudson, George Wuchinich, and myself. We were all Communist Party members at the time.

Mr. TAVENNER. Tell us what happened.

Mr. CVETIC. Mr. Matta having agreed to accept our program, broadcasts were immediately initiated in the name of Keep America Free, the program of the American Slav Congress of Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. TAVENNER. The title was Keep America Free?

Mr. CVETIC. That was the title of the program.

Mr. TAVENNER. Free for the Communists?

Mr. CVETIC. It took us two hours to work out the title.

Mr. TAVENNER. Proceed.

Mr. CVETIC. George Wuchinich was the master of ceremonies

of this broadcast.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was the type of the usual program?

Mr. CVETIC. The program usually dealt with some political topic, and the treatment of the topic was usually discussed at meetings in the American Slav Congress office or at the YMCA or at Tambilini's restaurant, with Roy Hudson, the district organizer of the Communist Party, when he was there, and later with Steve Nelson when he became the district organizer of the Communist Party, George Wuchinich, and myself. We would sit down and discuss the content of the program.

Mr. TAVENNER. In other words, just as in the case of the usual front organization, the policy and plans of this program were formed by the officers of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right. Steve Nelson would come in the office of the American Slav Congress and sometimes say, "The weekly program this week will be this." We always followed the Communist Party line. I have the scripts with me and will submit them later to the committee.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was the script usually gone over by the officers of the Communist Party at these meetings?

Mr. CVETIC. The scripts in most cases were prepared by George Wuchinich, and after he prepared them we would call a meeting of Roy Hudson, George Wuchinich and myself, when Roy was there, and when he was not there with Steve Nelson, and the

three of us would go over the scripts.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know whether or not Mr. Matta, to whom you referred as being in charge of radio station WLOA, I believe that is William G. Matta, E. R. Matta, or George C. Matta, the directors and incorporators of that radio station, are members of the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. To the best of my knowledge they are not.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you have any knowledge of other programs broadcast over WLOA which were supervised by the Communist Party or a front organization?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. There was a Croatian program which was directed by the Croatian Commission of the Communist Party, Arthur Bartl being in charge.

There was a Ukranian program which was in charge of Mike Hanusiak.

Then there was a Polish program sponsored by the Gdynia American Lines and narrated by Paul Kluvo.

And there was a Slovak program narrated by Calvin Brook and Mike Dudash.

All the men I have mentioned here as being in charge of these broadcasts are members of the Communist Party; that is, in the foregoing statement in answer to your question about the programs.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are all these programs handled in the same manner as were the programs of the American Slav Congress?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. The line taken into these programs was always discussed by the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party or by the Communists at the Language Press and then carried into the program.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are these programs still being conducted over the air over this station?

Mr. CVETIC. The American Slav Congress program went off the air at the request of Bill Matta over six months ago. As to the others, some have cut down their time and we understand some have ceased broadcasting altogether.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long were these broadcasts used, under this plan, by the American Slav Congress?

Mr. CVETIC. The American Slav Congress used them for a period of eighty weeks or more. I made the final broadcast. I believe it was the eighty-first or eighty-second, something like that.

Mr. CASE. The Chair will state that in view of the fact the House is meeting at noon, and there was pending business when the House adjourned early this morning which will be taken up immediately upon its reconvening, the committee will suspend to meet again this afternoon. But before we suspend, the Chair desires to ask a few questions.

Do you know of any Communist Party activity in connection with the stoppage of coal production in the country at the present time?

Mr. CVETIC. I know of some Communist activity, but not in connection with the actual coal stoppage. I know of activities to carry the Party line into the coal fields, but not in connection with the coal stoppage.

In earlier testimony I stated that while the Communist Party is working in the coal fields, they haven't made any progress with the United Mine Workers. Take, for example, in the present strike, I met with Bill Gordon, a Communist Party organizer, a week ago last Saturday, and he said the Communist Party has brought fifty youth leaders from New York to work in the coal fields, and they are going out there with the Sunday and Daily Worker, and they are collecting food.

Bill Gordon said: "You give the coal miner a can of food. Then when you offer him a Daily or Sunday Worker, how can he turn it down?" So they use food as bait.

Mr. CASE. The statement has been made by members of Congress that they have heard of gangs operating to prevent the return to work of miners who desire to return to work. Do you know of such activity promoted as a Communist activity?

Mr. CVETIC. I do not. I don't even know their entire activity, but Bill Gordon, a Communist Party member, did tell me 50 members of the Labor Youth League were sent from New York to operate in the coal fields.

Mr. KEARNEY. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, I don't know

how long this pending bill will take, but I would suggest we recess until a tentative time of three o'clock, and if it becomes necessary to adjourn we can get in touch with counsel.

Mr. CASE. That is a good suggestion.

It might be stated that a copy of this testimony relating to Communist radio broadcasts will be sent to the Federal Communications Commission for its attention.

The committee stands recessed until three o'clock this afternoon.

(Thereupon, at twelve o'clock noon, a recess was taken until 3:00 p.m. of the same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

(The subcommittee reconvened at 3:00 p.m., Representatives Francis E. Walter (presiding), Burr P. Harrison (arriving as indicated), and Bernard W. Kearney being present.)

Mr. WALTER. Mr. Cvetic, you have been sworn.

You may proceed.

TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW CVETIC (resumed)

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, will you tell the committee whether or not you are familiar with the current Communist Party line?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I am. The current Communist Party line-- and this was the line before I left Pittsburgh last Friday-- was to build a united front, as a Communist would say, from down below. This is done by going into the mass organizations, going into the steel mills, and carrying the Communist Party line into these organizations on any issue in which the Communist Party has an interest, either the peace issue, which they are working on now, or some other issue. For example, if there was a wage dispute, to get down to the rank and file with part of our program.

In many Communist Party meetings which I attended it was brought out we should not try to think in terms of having the people accept our whole program, but if we can work with the people in the mills and in the shops and meet with them on any

issue, we should do this.

In a Communist Party meeting when we talk of a united front we mean it might be a fight for one issue--a fight for a Negro; a fight against a trolley increase; and so on--but to be careful not to try to bring our entire Party line to these people or they may not accept it.

Mr. KEARNEY. May I ask a question apropos at this time?

Mr. WALTER. Yes.

Mr. KEARNEY. You have testified to methods by which the Communist Party disseminates the Party line among the rank and file. Will you tell the committee who determines the so-called twists and turns of this line, and where it originates?

Mr. CVETIC. I have previously testified that in Party meetings we never talk about Communism just in one word. We always refer to international communism. In other words, when we have these educational classes and have discussions, we never talk about Communism. We talk about international Communism. In other words, the struggle is for international Communism, to Communize the world.

In addition to these theoretical books of Marx, Lenin, Stalin, and so on, we are furnished with the Sunday and Daily Worker, which is available to us, and which is the official organ of the Communist Party here. And for the advanced and functionary members of the Communist Party we are furnished a weekly bulletin which is the official document of the Cominform,

and which comes out of the Eastern European countries. This is also furnished to the advanced members of the Communist Party so that they can take the line down to the members on the lower level.

Mr. KEARNEY. That line originates outside the confines of the United States?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. The bulletin we got is the official document of the Cominform.

Mr. KEARNEY. Where does it come from?

Mr. CVETIC. From Bucharest, I think. It is made available to us weekly.

Mr. KEARNEY. In other words, the American Communist not only follows the Party line all the way down the line, but takes orders from Bucharest or somewhere else outside the confines of the United States?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. Our orders come from the Kremlin, from the Cominform. I mentioned before the secretary of the French Communist Party who was instrumental in bringing about the Communist Party line change at the national convention of the Communist Party in 1945.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to add that this bulletin is also on the "must" reading list for functionaries and advanced Party members.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is the title of this bulletin?

Mr. CVETIC. All I know is that it is the official document of the Cominform. I have submitted copies to the FBI. The document the Congressman is looking at seems to be one of them.

Mr. TAVENNER. I hand you a paper and ask if this is the type of bulletin you are referring to?

Mr. CVETIC. This is the "Organ of the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers' Parties," and this is the bulletin I refer to.

Mr. TAVENNER. I desire to offer that bulletin in evidence and ask that it be marked Cvetic Exhibit 1.

(The document above referred to, marked Cvetic Exhibit 1, is filed in connection with this record.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, are you acquainted with an individual by the name of Steven Loyen?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I am acquainted or have been acquainted with Steven Loyen.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is the nature of your acquaintanceship with this individual?

Mr. CVETIC. After I joined the Communist Party I met Steve Loyen at many meetings of the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party. When he was in Pittsburgh he was to a large measure responsible for the Communist Party organizational work in the Croatian movement. Steve since then has gone back to Yugoslavia.

Mr. TAVENNER. What work did he do in connection with the Croatian Fraternal Union?

Mr. CVETIC. In connection with the Croatian Fraternal Union, he helped to direct the work in the Croatian Council. He also helped to direct the work in the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief and the United Committee of South Slavic Americans. And he was also employed by Narodni Glasnik, which is located at 1916 East Street.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know an individual by the name of John Bronich?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I do.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is the nature of your acquaintanceship with him?

Mr. CVETIC. I met John Bronich at Communist Party meetings, Nationality Commission meetings. At the present time, as I understand it, he is with the Croatian Fraternal Union.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have identified Mary Sumrak as a member of the Communist Party who is employed at the Narodni Glasnik. Do you know her husband, Mark Sumrak?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I do.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is the nature of your acquaintanceship with him?

Mr. CVETIC. While I have never had too much contact with Mark Sumrak, I have seen him at Communist Party meetings.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know an individual by the name of Peter Margetich?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, I know Peter Margetich very well.

(Mr. Harrison arrives.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Tell us about your acquaintanceship with him.

Mr. CVETIC. Peter Margetich is from Cleveland, Ohio. My acquaintance with Peter Margetich has been as a result of attending Nationality Commission meetings in Cleveland, Ohio, and in Pittsburgh. From my contacts with him it was indicated that he is one of the most responsible Communist Party members in Cleveland, Ohio, in the Slav Commission, and when I say Slav Commission, he usually carries on organizational work for the Croatian, Serbian, and Slovene Commissions in Cleveland.

Mr. TAVENNER. Has there ever been an occasion when you were requested to obtain information from Government agency sources for use by the Communist Party?

Mr. CVETIC. Well, I can recollect at least one occasion when Roy Hudson, who was then district organizer for the Communist Party--and this was while I was employed at the United States Employment Service--Roy Hudson asked me to come to his office one day, and he asked me to secure from the files of the United States Employment Service information relative to the number of employees working in industry in

Western Pennsylvania. The information he requested he wanted broken down into the various companies and various industries, steel and so on.

In answer to Roy Hudson's request, before I furnished him with any information I contacted the office of the FBI and told them what he wanted me to do. They told me to go ahead and see what I could find, and before I turned it over to Roy Hudson to check with them.

I went to the United States Employment Service, removed the information from the files that Roy Hudson wanted me to get; I checked it with the agent of the FBI with whom I was working; we manipulated some of the figures; then I turned them over to Roy Hudson. What he did with the figures after I turned them over to him, I don't know.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did that occur?

Mr. CVETIC. He came to Pittsburgh as the district organizer after the national convention of 1945, and this was six months or so after I met him in Pittsburgh. I would say it was the latter part of 1945 or first part of 1946. I filed a report on it, and cleared with the FBI before I turned the papers over to Roy Hudson.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you been requested by any official of the Communist Party, or any group of officials, to gain access to any particular records of Communist front organizations?

Mr. CVETIC. You mean recently?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes, recently.

Mr. CVETIC. I always had access to some documents of Communist front organizations. The most recent request I had came from William Albertson, district secretary of the Communist Party, and this request came through Milo Mamula. We had some records of the Civil Rights Congress, the American Slav Congress, and Progressive Party records in the office at 943 Liberty Avenue.

Mr. TAVENNER. When you say "we" to whom do you refer?

Mr. CVETIC. When I say "we" I mean the members instrumental in working in these front organizations, Milo Mamula, George Wuchinich, and myself.

I was told that I should remove these records so that the FBI couldn't come pick them up.

Mr. TAVENNER. You say that request came from Albertson?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Through--

Mr. CVETIC. Milo Mamula.

Mr. TAVENNER. How do you know the request came from Albertson through Mamula?

Mr. CVETIC. Mamula said that Albertson said to get those records the hell out of there before the FBI or some investigator picked them up.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did that conversation occur?

Mr. CVETIC. That has occurred probably four or five times in the last few weeks. I said: "Why don't you take them out and burn them?" They wanted me to destroy them so that the records would not be available to investigators.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you follow the directions and take those papers out?

Mr. CVETIC. After Mamula insisted so much that I take them out and destroy them, I finally took them out, and I have about eighty pounds of them which I brought here.

Mr. TAVENNER. The committee issued a subpoena for you to produce them?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right, and here they are (indicating two large suitcases).

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you open them?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes.

(Witness opens suitcases.)

Mr. CASE. What do these documents relate to?

Mr. CVETIC. They relate to Communist front organizations like the American Slav Congress, Civil Rights Congress, and the work of some of our members in the Progressive Party. The instructions to remove these documents came from the district secretary of the Communist Party.

Mr. WALTER. Who was that, again?

Mr. CVETIC. William Albertson.

Mr. CASE. I notice there are what appear to be bank state-

ments and check stubs?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I was asked to destroy all this.

Mr. CASE. Also several books which might be minute books?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, minute books, records of campaigns that were conducted.

Mr. CASE. Folders containing letters?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes, and credentials, scripts of radio broadcasts about which I have testified here, and so forth.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have identified these documents which you have brought here under subpoena as records of what organizations?

Mr. CVETIC. The Civil Rights Congress; the American Slav Congress of Western Pennsylvania; and when I mentioned Progressive Party records, they are the work of the American Slav Congress in the Progressive Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. How did you select these particular documents to remove?

Mr. CVETIC. You see, we closed the American Slav Congress office, and all the records were then kept at 943 Liberty Avenue, and at 943 Liberty Avenue there is a travel bureau conducted by Milo Mamula, and the rear of the room is used by the Communist Party for meetings and educational work.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was the office of the American Slav Congress closed after the report made by this committee last year?

Mr. CVETIC. That is right. We closed it after that report.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, the staff has not had an opportunity to check these records or to analyze them. We desire to do that and probably to recall this witness from time to time in matters relating to these records.

Mr. WALTER. I think they should be carefully examined and put in a safe place, but we will retain the records here for the time being.

Mr. CASE. You were directed to take these?

Mr. CVETIC. Yes. I was directed to remove them. The reason was, there was a travel bureau there, and the Communist Party conducted educational and other meetings there, and I was told to remove these records.

Mr. CASE. And the person who directed you to take them had authority to do that?

Mr. CVETIC. When we talk about authority, it is in the form of directives, and when William Albertson sent instructions to remove them, it was a directive.

Mr. CASE. He was custodian of them and told you to remove them?

Mr. CVETIC. No. Milo Mamula was the custodian, and Albertson sent word through Mamula to remove them. Actually, I tried my best to keep from removing them, but they forced me, so I took them.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cvetic, is there anything else you would like to add to the testimony you have given here?

Mr. CVETIC. I would like to say this, that after seven years' membership in the Communist Party, attending classes, Party meetings, I think I can state with good authority that the Communist Party's only interest in the trade union movement, in mass organizations, in church organizations, in veteran organizations, is to utilize them in their aim to overthrow the United States Government.

I know that the average American, like the people all over the world, are interested in peace, as we all are; however, the phony peace drives organized by the Communist Party in the United States are organized for the sole purpose of disarming the majority of the American people in order to make it easier for them to bring Communism to America.

At a meeting which I attended recently, and that was about three months ago, of the North Side Section Committee, Bill Albertson, district secretary of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania, in asking Bill Gordon and John Vidmar to visit a couple clergymen in West Side Pittsburgh for the purpose of organizing a peace front, said to Bill Gordon and John Vidmar: "You don't have to tell the clergymen you contact to induce them to front for a peace organization what our real aims and program are." They are interested in organizing a peace drive, but we are told to keep our real aims from the people.

Mr. CASE. Who said that?

Mr. CVETIC. William Albertson, district secretary.

Mr. CASE. To whom did he say it?

Mr. CVETIC. There were six of us at the meeting. I was at the meeting. These were instructions to Bill Gordon, an organizer for the Communist Party, and John Vidmar, who is now section secretary of the North Side Section of the Communist Party.

Mr. CASE. Did you hear Albertson say that?

Mr. CVETIC. I was at the meeting when he said it. This was at 943 Liberty Avenue.

Mr. CASE. And when was that?

Mr. CVETIC. That was two or three months ago. It was one of the last North Side Section Committee meetings that I attended.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you anything further you wish to say?

Mr. CVETIC. If there are no questions I would like to make a closing statement.

Mr. WALTER. Proceed.

Mr. CVETIC. Now that I have made my story public, I expect to be the victim of what is known as Communist character assassination, which is the standard Communist Party procedure when one renounces his Communist Party affiliations. I have sat at meetings and heard Communist Party leaders and members refer to the House Un-American Activities Committee, to the FBI, to J. Edgar Hoover, and to any official of the Government or citizen who actively fights Communism, in the most vicious

and derogatory terms they had at their disposal.

I came down here because I believe the best interests of the American people can be served by exposing Communism through such committees as the House Un-American Activities Committee, so that the American people can understand that it is a real menace to our country.

I have been asked the question whether I think the Communist Party should be outlawed. My answer to such a question is this: That it is very difficult to outlaw a name. It is very simple to change a name from Communism to Stalinism, to Molotovism, or some other such "ism".

What I feel Congress should do in legislating in this particular instance is to outlaw the activity itself, and not the name. I will, before I leave the committee, leave what I consider effective legislative proposals, based on my nine years' experience.

I believe the best fight against Communism is for Labor, Management, Agriculture, and Government to cooperate in a common effort for the common and continued welfare of America. Of course all people are interested in peace, but I think we can best assure peace to our nation and to the world by making certain that our rights and privileges as exist today are not destroyed as they would be under a Communist dictatorship.

Mr. WALTER. Mr. Cvetic, in behalf of the Committee on Un-American Activities, I wish to thank you for your testimony

during the past three days. In your own quiet and methodical way you have given us a clear insight into the conspiratorial depths of the Communist Party. You have shown us how they operate by stealth and evasion through false front organizations particularly among the foreign born Slavic groups of our population.

You have described from your own first-hand knowledge how the Communists operate in the trade unions of Pittsburgh, masking their subversive aims behind a pretense of friendliness to labor.

You have revealed for the benefit of the people of Pittsburgh, those who actually pull the strings of the Communist conspiracy in that great city. For the people of the United States you have sketched a pattern of activities which holds true for other cities.

We cannot be oblivious of the remarkable courage you have displayed. You have given the American people an outstanding example of personal bravery which we cannot but appreciate. We congratulate you on your contribution to the work of the Committee on Un-American Activities and assure you that the testimony you have given here will serve as a significant chapter in the effort to enlighten the American people as to the true nature of the Communist conspiracy.

The meeting is adjourned.

(Thereupon, at 3:35 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 1950, an adjournment was taken.)